July/August 2005 ISSUE

Alternative CENTRAL

A Publication for Central PA's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community.

FAB Nabs Maude Maggart for Cabaret Evening

By Matthew Bailey

Life promises to be a cabaret indeed at the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg's 10th annual Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) Fundraiser at The Whitaker Center For Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, November 19, 2005. This year's FAB committee has secured up-and-coming cabaret performer Maude Maggart as the featured entertainer for the Saturday evening gala event.

Maggart, whose recent live performances on Garrison Keillors A Prairie Home Companion from Town Hall in New York and the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles garnered national attention, made her 2001 debut at Hollywood's cabaret hotspot The Gardenia. Her sweet and fresh interpretation of songs made popular some seven decades ago caused such a stir that Gardenia owner Tom Rolla subsequently invited Maggart to perform an open-ended weekly show. Since then, Maggart has headlined at Schroeder's Cabaret in San Diego, the Royal Room in Palm Beach and Danny's Skylight Room in New

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Likes Beatles & Beach Boys

Gov. Rendell Talks to Alternative Central

By John Fox

Governor Ed Rendell spoke with Alternative Central's John Fox recently about his accomplishments, musical interests, and relationship with the people of Dauphin County.

John Fox: Do you plan to run for a second term in 2006?

Ed Rendell: As of right now I would love to serve a second term. I am pleased that in the

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Central Sighting
–International Diva Thea Austin performs Sat., July 30 at Central PA Pride Festival, Harrisburg's Riverfront Park. Join the fun Fri., July 29 Kick-Off Party, Riverfront Park 7–10pm. DJ Frankie.

4th Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival October 7-13

"Broadway: The Golden Age," lesbian "El Favor," and "Garcon Stupide" headline the 4th Annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival October 7-13 at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema.

The lesbian themed "El Favor" (the Favor) is about two women who want to have a baby. They want a man to have sex with one of them in order to achieve their goal. That's when the fun starts. In the comedy style of Pedro Almadovar, the two women hatch a scheme one evening with one female's brother. And the back and forth begins. The film was a smash hit at the Philadelphia Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

A film with as much appeal to straight as gay and lesbian audiences, "Broadway: The Golden Age" has been burning up festival screens across the country. The all-about-Broadway-in-its-heyday film won "Best of Festival Award in 2003 when it screen for one showing at the ArtFest Film Festival held at the Whitaker each May. The film is a series of impressions and memories shared by more than one hundred stars, composers, play-

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Miller Beefs Up for General Election

With both Democratic and Republican slots on November's General Election ballot, Dan Miller is gearing up his campaign for Harrisburg City Council. He captured one of the four positions on the Democratic ballot and also won a spot on the Republican ticket with a successful write in campaign for last May's Primary Election.

If elected, Miller makes history as the first openly gay person to be elected to public office in the Keystone State's capital city.

"I am eager to get to work for all the people of Harrisburg," Miller said after his primary election victory. "I want to work with the mayor and other city council members to continue the economic development of the city and make stronger efforts in revitalizing the neighborhoods."

Miller also said he's looking forward to using his skills as a certified public accountant and business owner "in keeping watch over the city budget and making sure taxpayer money is spent efficiently and wisely and that taxes are kept as low as possible."

Miller was the only city council candidate to be endorsed by both mayoral candidates Stephen Reed and Jason Smith. He is among three of the four candidates endorsed by incumbent Mayor Reed to win in the primary. Miller is also endorsed by the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

Female Football Player Tackles $350,000

By Michelle Diament

A federal appeals court recently ordered Duke University to reimburse a former female football player $350,000 of the legal fees that she incurred while pursuing a gender-discrimination lawsuit against Duke for having kicked her off its football team.

In a unanimous decision, a three-

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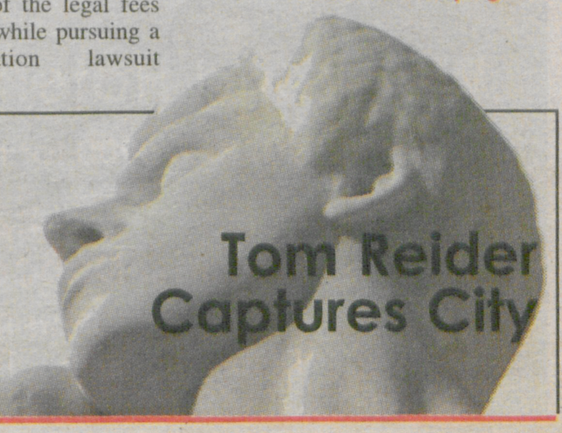
Riverside Framing
PAGE 24

MetLife Rep Works with Gay Market
PAGE 6



Tom Reider Captures City
PAGE 25

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Thursday, July 21st Amateur Strip Night 11pm.
Friday, July 22nd Carmen's Benefit Pride Show in Groove 11:30pm.
Saturday, July 30th After Pride Dance Party.
The Bar opens at 6pm and the dance floor at 8pm.

Special Events for August

Saturday, August 13th Boxer & Brief Dance Party 10pm to 2am.
Thursday, August 18th Amateur Strip Night 11pm.
Friday August 19th Retro 80's Flashback Night 10pm to 2am.
Saturday 27th Black Out Glow Stick Party 10pm to 2am.

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Friday, July 15th
Pride Benefit Show 11pm.

Saturday, July 30th
After Pride Dance Party and Shimmer's 4th Anniversary.
Shimmer opens at 8pm tonight.

Events for August

Friday, August 5th
Goth Night 10pm.

Saturday, August 13th
Boxer & Brief Dance Party 10pm.

Friday August 19th
Retro 80's Flashback Night 10pm.

Saturday, August 27th Black Out Glow Stick Dance Party 10pm

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Alternative CENTRAL

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Fire, then aim

Stonewall Democrats Lack Sophistication with Patty Kim Attack

By Frank Pizzoli, Publisher

"I admit that maybe we might have gone about it the wrong way, but Ben and others wanted to get this out ASAP because of the time question. I normally don't like to 'rush' things, but I agreed that there wasn't much time to go about it the 'correct' way," wrote Capitol Region Stonewall Democrat co-chair Judy Chambers in a May 13 email.

Chambers refers her and CRSD co-chair Ben Turner's request that Harrisburg City Council candidate Patty Kim back down from her invitation to speak at this month's Pennsylvania Family Institute's conference. With 2,118 votes on the Democratic side and 228 Republican "write-in" votes, Kim was the highest vote getter in the May Primary Election. Consequently, she will appear on both ballots in November "though I am taking nothing for granted," she told *Alternative Central*.

"Either Patty Kim knows the far-right agenda that this conference will push, or she didn't bother to find out - either way, this raises serious questions for Democratic voters in Harrisburg," Chambers and Turner said in a news release. "The only way she could undo the damage now is to make an immediate announcement of withdrawal from any participation in that conference." Presumably, if Kim was planning on accepting an invitation to speak at PFI's event, she must be anti-gay. She must also be a bad Democrat to accept the invitation.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be 300 or fewer words and include contact information.

Successful Event

Dear Editor,

May Faire, our event promoted in your pages, was a success. We had enough people attend that we're able to pay the bills. And we had enough money leftover for our next event. Many thanks from the Maplewing Group and to *Alternative Central*. Quite a few people who attended May Faire that told us they saw the promotional story in your newspaper.

Sincerely,
Terri Hamrick Kessel

Club Z Raises $733

Dear Editor,

Thank you for promoting Williamsport's hot new dance establishment Club Z. Special thanks to Monique, Amethyst, Miss Biscuit, Anita Cox, and Michael Tindell for a great Pride Fundraiser Show held there in May. And special thanks to Dale, Michael and the Club Z staff for hosting the event! Love you guys!

With tips, the 50/50 raffle and cover charge, we raised $733 for Pride 2005! We appreciate that the winner of the raffle donated his winnings back to Pride.

Monique raised $300 in a solo performance at Sunbury's Country Side Inn, the first drag show ever held at that venue. She's a dynamo and has served as a phenomenal Miss Pride. Love her to death!

Sincerely,
Kirk Baney, Chairperson
Central PA Pride 2005

Forever Books Forever Grateful

Dear Editor

Thank you again for all the support and everything you've done for us!

Tameca Waid, Monique Pearson,

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News page

Free Harrisburg Symphony Concerts July 4th Weekend

No Independence Day celebration is complete without patriotic music. Maestro Stuart Malina leads the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra (HSO) in three FREE performances in three different locations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 1-3.

The Orchestra travels to McAlisterville on July 1 to perform at East Juniata High School beginning at 7:30 p.m.

July 2, the Orchestra presents "Symphony on the Susquehanna" as part of the American MusicFest in downtown Harrisburg, starting at 8:00 p.m. on the Comcast Star Stage at the south end of Riverfront Park, overlooking the Susquehanna. The Saturday concert culminates with fireworks while the Orchestra performs the "1812 Overture." Audiences are invited to bring their blankets and picnic dinner.

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July
July 1 – Gay.com Party, 9PM – Midnight
July 3 – Pride Benefit Show, 9PM - Midnight
July 29 & 30 – Gay Pride Weekend
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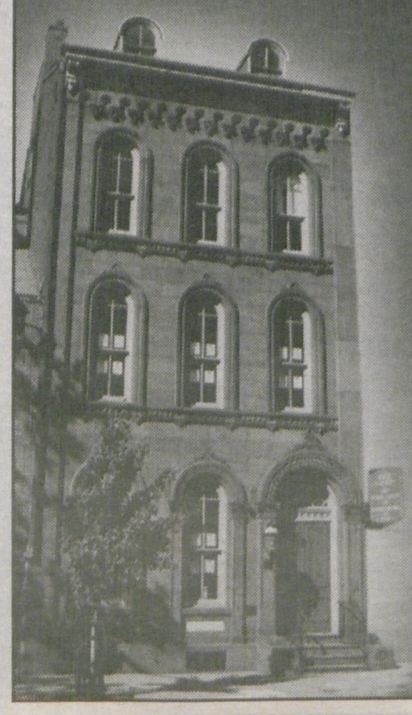
9th Annual Art of Food – Saturday, Sept. 17 – 6-9PM



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FAB Nabs Maude continued

York. In fact, her New York debut was at none other than the historic Algonquin Hotel's Oak Room where she will perform again for a two-week engagement in September.

"We are so proud and fortunate to have Maude Maggart performing at this year's very special 10th anniversary FAB gala event," said Marc-Carroll Rigel, FAB's 2005 chair. "I believe those attending this year's event will find her to be completely charming and a terrific entertainer."

Rigel, who saw Maggart perform live on A Prairie Home Companion in New York in April and again a few weeks later at the Oak Room, said he knew she would be a stunning addition to the festivities that honor achievement in the gay and lesbian community of greater Harrisburg and whose proceeds benefit gay and lesbian organizations serving Central Pennsylvania.

"In the past, we've had some exceptional performers and guests from Governor Ed Rendell to Suzanne Westenhoefer to Georgia Ragsdale," Rigel said. "Maude Maggart represents the next evolution in providing superb entertainment for those who so generously come out and show their support for FAB and the Switchboard's many important initiatives in our community."

The event will also mark Maggart's debut in Central Pennsylvania.

"I'm really, really pleased to be invited by FAB to perform," Maggart said. "I'm excited about performing in Harrisburg …I've never been there before!"

Information on FAB's 2005 gala event can be obtained by calling the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg at 234-0328 or online at www.askglsh.org. Information on Maude Maggart can be obtained online at www.maudemaggart.com.

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Final Night:
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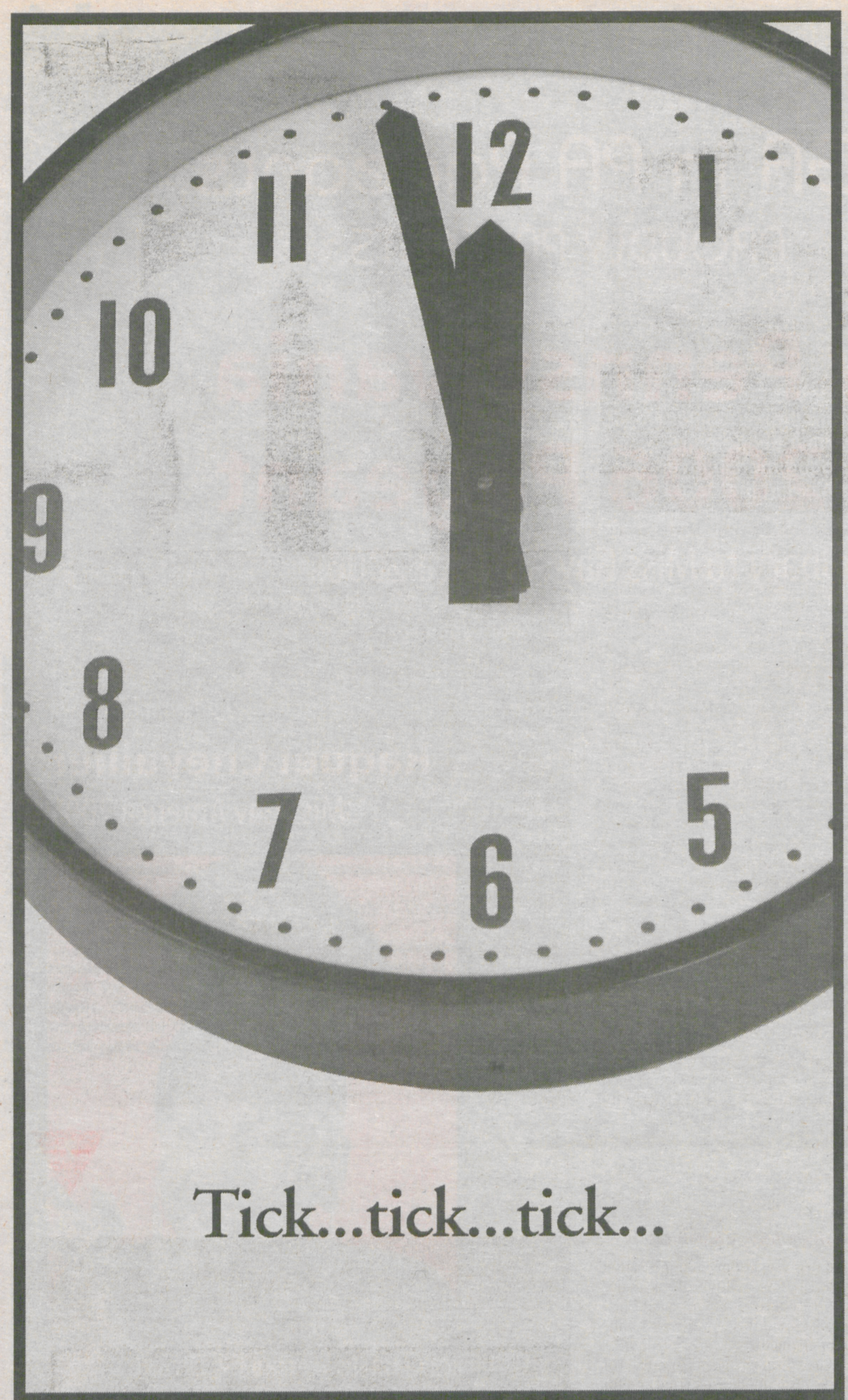

Tick...tick...tick...

The help you need before it's too late. Drastic changes to the bankruptcy laws will be in effect October 2005. So, whether you are facing credit card debt, delinquent taxes, medical bills, or even mortgage foreclosure, don't hesitate to contact the experienced attorneys at Purcell, Krug & Haller. They can help you find a solution and protect the things you value most—while there's still time. *For additional information on bankruptcy or PH&H's other practice areas, visit us on the web at* ***www.pkh.com***

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Financial Planning

MetLife Rep Working with Gay & Lesbian Market

Shannon R. Shupp, Agency Sales Director with MetLife Financial Services, Mechanicsburg, is a financial professional now working with the growing lgbt community. She is devoting her energy to helping people in the community achieve their goals by making smart decisions with their money.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for the relationship that develops between a financial professional and a client," Shupp says. "My goal is to focus on unique issues presenting financial challenges in our community."

Goals:

Is your partner (and / or children) covered financially in case something were to happen to you?

Are you and your partner making smart decisions with your money so you can retire with a comfortable lifestyle?

Do you maximize the options available to you in order to reduce your taxable income?

Are you aware of the value of your estate and the issues that surround transferring it to whom you want?

Have you evaluated your current investments as they relate to your accumulation goals?

If you own a business, are you and your employees financially protected?

Shupp is available to discuss in detail the goals above and to take the mystery out of building one's own financial freedom. She can also explain how priorities sometimes differ from those seen in the non-lgbt community. Contact Shupp:800-842-3357x2763; sshupp@metlife.com.

"The gay and lesbian community has unique issues that should be addressed by someone who is familiar with solving their needs" says Shupp. For more information, visit her web site: www.ShuppMiller.metlife.com.

Annuities and life insurance offered through Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166. L0501B5Q9(exp0108)MLIC-LD

News Notes continued

July 3, the Orchestra will appear in downtown Carlisle on the Rush Campus of Dickinson College as part of the annual Carlisle Summerfair. The Carlisle concert will start at 7:30. The concerts present a varied program of light classics: "Barber of Seville" Overture, "Armed Forces Salute," the 1812 Overture, and "The Stars and Stripes Forever," music from The Pink Panther and Star Wars. Joining Malina is vocalist Cathy Chemi, singing a selection of stylish jazz favorites like "Embraceable You," "I've Got the World on a String," and "Blue Skies." www.harrisburgsymphony.org; (717) 545-5527

Morrow Farrar Jewelers Offers Free Watch Batteries

June through August, Morrow Farrar Jewelers is giving away "Free Watch Batteries" as a way to raise funds for three important local charities. This leading jewelry store is donating the cost of the watch battery and their

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Home Comfort

Don't Be Left Out in the Cold

by Kristen Richards

Record setting prices for heating oil remains a hot topic. High energy prices are here to stay, according to gloomy forecasts by energy experts.

Locally, we survived another winter of high-energy prices with mild weather offsetting a 30% price hike. Although it's easy to forget about heating bills during summer, now is the time to make your best buy for next season.

As a former energy consultant, I assisted clients with purchasing product under the best available "price protection" programs. Their plan often involved customizing their home heating needs.

Here's some recommendations.

Local Options

Locally, deregulated propane and heating oil markets allow consumers to shop for fuel suppliers and, best of all, price protection programs and incentives. On the other hand, natural gas is supplied by your public utility which is governed by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Since 1999, natural gas in the midstate has been deregulated, also providing consumer choice.

Buy Now

Most fuel companies, including your utility, are currently securing product for the 2005-2006 heating season. They purchase the greater part of their supply based on commodity prices called "futures." They buy on "paper" or simply buy real fuel. Companies fill their enormous storage tanks, hoping their purchase was the best buy for their dollar (and your dollar too).

Cap Your Cost

Others fuel companies delay purchases until late summer, anticipating or securing even lower prices. Either method of buying is a gamble. Once product is secured, the majority of full service dealers, including natural gas suppliers, offer special pricing options allowing you to cap the price at which you pay for the entire heating season. A "pre-purchase" means you buy your fuel up front at a specified rate.

Which program is best? If you can afford to buy a season's worth of product, this program has historically yielded optimum prices. Simply identify your annual use and then multiply by the best price per gallon to determine your total annual outlay.

Pre-buying is not available on natural gas utilities or choice suppliers. To price compare, look at your recent gas bill and identify your usage, measured in ccfs or 100 cubic feet of gas. Next, go to "price to compare" to compute savings. You may also access your utilities web site to compare suppliers. Regardless, your utility still calculates and/or estimates your metered consumption and distributes your gas, but you now have options of purchasing gas through another source.

Summer specials

Another savings vehicle is "summer fill: specials during seasonal price drops. If you have a large storage tank with room for more product, then top it off to save dollars.

Lastly, do your homework if you are shopping for an energy company. Most offer creative enticements and inducements for new customers. Simply ask.

Both War Veterans

50 Years of Love & Life Together

By Derek J. Cordier, Esquire

It all began on April 23rd 1955, when Harry O'Donnell met Arthyr Bennett at the Pink Elephant, a bar located at corner of Mulberry and Chestnut Streets in Harrisburg. The second floor was gay. They would spend the next 50 years together, traveling the world and loving each other.

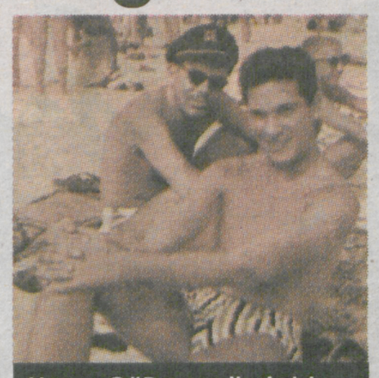
Arthyr was born in 1926. After attending Harrisburg High School and graduating from the Class of 1944, Arthyr served with the Army Central Rhineland Ground Forces during WWII. He was the recipient of several medals including the Bronze Star. Harry was born in 1934 and attended Shippensburg High School, graduating from the Class of 1952. Harry served during the Korean War and graduated from the Army Finance School.

After their military service, Arthyr worked at the Mechanicsburg Naval Depot as a Management Analyst and was credited for developing SPCCs Item Management Coding System. He retired in 1970 after 25 years of service. Harry worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare as the Payroll Division Chief. He retired in 1989 after 33 years of service. Upon retirement, Harry received an accommodation from the Pennsylvania State Senate for distinguished service.

Over the years, Harry and Arthyr helped care for elderly family members. They volunteered extensively with area churches, veterans associations, and clubs. Both of them have a passion for the arts and the theatre. Harry sang with opera singer Marilyn Horn when she performed in Harrisburg in 1995 and with the Texas Men's Chorus at Carnegie Hall in 1993. They loved working in their immaculate garden, eating gourmet food, and drinking fine wine.

I came to know the both of them last January, when Arthyr became terminally ill and they decided that they needed to get their wills, living wills, and powers of attorney in order. Sadly, in late March I received a call from Harry letting me know Arthyr had passed away. Harry also told me what happened when the ambulance came for Arthyr.

The paramedic took Arthyr's vital signs and then asked Harry if Arthyr had a Living Will and a designated Power of Attorney for Health Care. Arthyr had both and he had designated Harry as his Power of Attorney. Then the paramedic allowed Arthyr to complete the dying process instead of resuscitating him. Arthyr died at home with the love of his life and soul mate - just as he had hoped.



Harry O"Donnell, right, and the love of his life, Arthyr Bennett, are young men in love enjoying the beach.

Helping Harry and Arthyr reminded me of why I became and attorney in the first place. If Arthyr had not completed his Living Will, he may have been resuscitated. His death could have been painful, unnecessarily prolonged, and taken place in a hospital. Since they were not legally married, Harry may not have been able to make any medical decisions for Arthyr and possibly not even been allowed to visit Arthyr during his last days.

On April 23, 2005 on their 50th Anniversary, Harry held a beautiful memorial service for Arthyr. The pastor spoke eloquently and even told a packed church that "he could bless a house or a dog, but not the union of Harry and Arthyr." What a shameful society we live in that does not want to acknowledge such an incredible 50 year MARRIAGE.

Harry O"Donnell, right, together 50 years with Arthyr Bennet until Arthyr's death last January, enjoyed a rich home life.

Central Sighting - PA State Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola answers question posed by Alternative Central's John Fox.

Question: President Bush used the issue of "gay marriage" as a wedge issue in his last campaign. Do you plan to use "gay marriage" as a wedge issue in your re-election campaign?"

Answer: "Well, I'm not sure what you mean by a wedge issue, and I'm not sure whether President Bush used it or not. The issue was brought up by the courts, some states, and some elected officials in some states who unilaterally, on their own, declared same-sex marriage to be legal, even in contradiction to some state laws and constitutional prohibition. I don't think you can blame that on the president. These issues were raised by unaccountable courts and public officials who went off on their own and didn't obey the law so I don't blame that on the president or anyone else."

Stonewall Democrats Back Winner Dan Miller

The Capital Region Stonewall Democrats' first endorsed candidate for 2005, Dan Miller, won a Democratic nomination for Harrisburg City Council. He also picked up a Republican write-in spot on the November ballot. "Miller is well-positioned to make history as the first "out" gay man elected to office in Harrisburg," says CRSD co-chair Ben Turner.

Miller is one of five candidates running for four seats; consequently, he needs help this fall, Turner stresses. More information: www.friendsofdanmiller.com or (717) 234-2250.

CRSD is the area's largest political organization of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Democrats and straight allies. With the primary election settled, the group will be talking with Miller and the other three Democratic nominees for Harrisburg city council.

Not Spreading Santorum

Another priority for Stonewall Democrats is defeating anti-gay U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum next year, an effort which is already drawing strong national interest.

"Santorum stuck his foot in his mouth again in May, comparing Democratic senators to Hitler because they wouldn't rubber-stamp extreme judges nominated by President Bush. The senator later retracted the comment, but he gave everyone another look at the real Santorum," Turner says.

Meanwhile, Bush's administration has been trying to undo the ban on anti-gay discrimination that has protected federal employees for more than 20 years, under both Democratic and Republican presidents. Bush appointed Scott Bloch to head the office in charge of protecting federal workers' civil rights.

Despite a 2000 promise from Bush and a 2004 White House statement, Bloch has been claiming he can't protect gay and lesbian employees and has overseen the removal of language about anti-gay discrimination from contracts with federal workers.

"I think what the Bush administration does - with our tax dollars - is more important than what it says," says CRSD co-chair Judy Chambers.

To get ready for PrideFest 2005, July 29-30, the group plans to meet on July 14 and 25, both days at 7 p.m. at the area's lgbt bookstore, Forever Books, 41 N. Front St., Steelton.

The Stonewall Democrats can be reached by mail: P.O. Box 200, Harrisburg, PA 17108; phone: (717) 232-8382; or e-mail: crstonewalldems@yahoo.com.

Film Festival continued

wrights, and directors, from Angela Lansbury and Carol Channing to Stephen Sondheim.

Garcon Stupide is "an extraordinary story" about the foibles and joys of one young man's sexcapades and what he ultimately learns about himself.

Rendell Talks continued

first two years of my administration I've accomplished all of my major campaign promises and would like to be around to see these programs implemented.

The Education Program for Early Childhood just started and for the first time children in the Commonwealth are attending state-funded full-day kindergarten and publicly funded pre-kindergarten. I would like to see these programs, including Head Start expanded so that each child in Pennsylvania has the chance to succeed from the start of their education. The 2.3 billion dollar Economic Stimulus Program has all been passed into law and right now we have 70,000 more jobs in the state than we did a year ago, but full implementation will take three or four years. I want to be around for that.

PACE/PACENET Prescription Drug Coverage is being offered to more and more seniors, and we are seeing our efforts to reform medical malpractice working resulting in fewer malpractice lawsuits in the state.

Recently voters approved the largest environmental bond issue in state history, but we still have to build the Growing Greener program with the legislature and put that money toward enhancing our quality of life and improving our state's environment.

Gaming and property tax reduction are on the move, but have not been implemented yet. I would like to be around to implement that, and see the Pennsylvania homeowners reap the benefits.

JF: The middle class became a battle ground during the last presidential campaign. John Kerry aggressively pursued them with promises of tax relief. Traditionally the middle class votes Republican. Why?

continued on page 10

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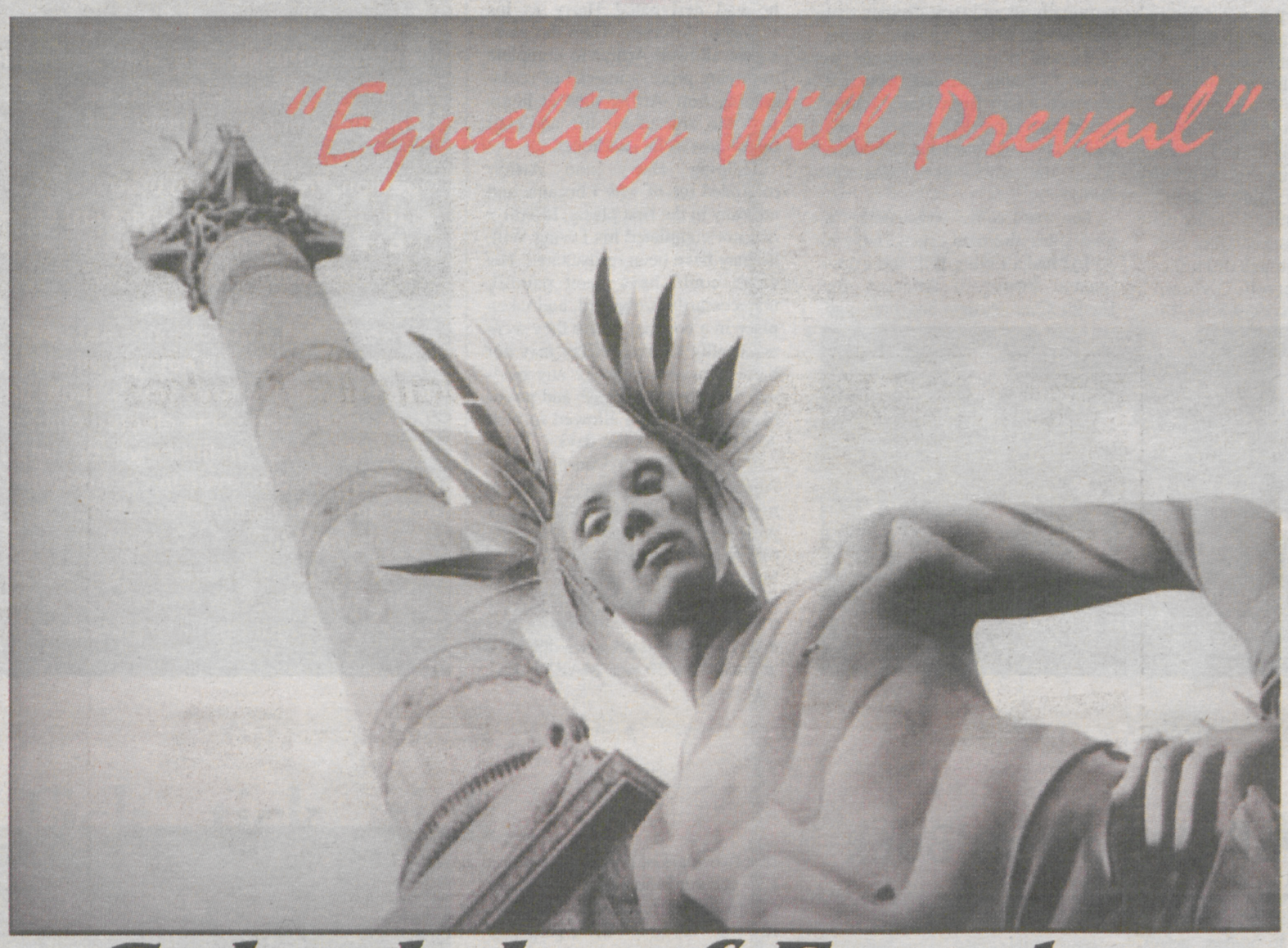
Central Pennsylvania Pridefest 2005



Schedule of Events:

FRIDAY

- 7-10pm Pre-Pride Dance Party with "kick ass DJ Frankie"
-South Riverfront Park

SATURDAY

- Noon Opening Remarks & Star Spangled Banner
- 12:15pm Vision of Hope MCC Joyful Noise Choir
- 12:30pm Female Illusionist Performance
- 2:00pm Eric Himan
- 3:00pm Natalie Darkes
- 4:00pm Ernest Kohl
- 5:00pm Female Illusionist Performance
- 6:00pm Thea Austin

A Party and a Weekend to Remember...

Harrisburg's South River Front Park
Friday Evening Dance Party 7:00pm & Noon to 7:00 pm
July 29th & 30th, 2005

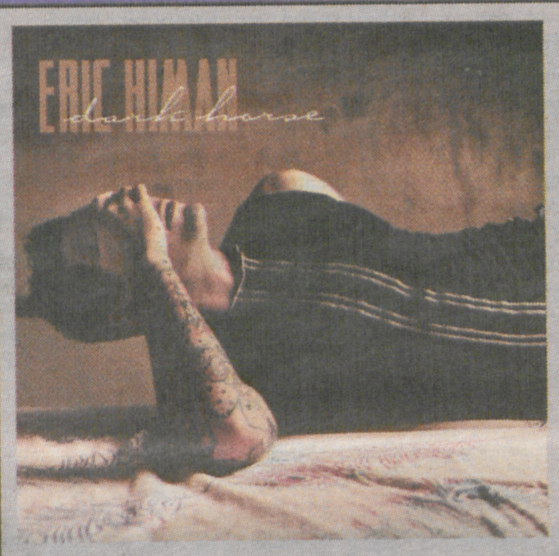
www.HarrisburgPride.org

International Diva
From SNAP
Thea Austin

6:00 pm

Ernest Kohl
International Recording Star

4:00 pm



2:00 pm

Natalie Darkes
3:00 pm

Female Illusionist Performers

Central Pennsylvania PrideFest 2005

www.HarrisburgPride.org

Men's Health
by Brian Wolfe, The Fitness Firm

Healthy Summer Beverages Important

By Brian Wolfe

Summer weather challenges our resolve to consume only healthy beverages. In the long run, quality drinks carry us through long hot days better than processed beverages or those that actually remove more water from the body than they provide.

Here are lifestyle tips you can follow to beat the summer heat.

1. Water is the best option to quench thirst.

Water is a key ingredient in keeping the body cool. With high humidity, sweat will not evaporate quickly. This prevents the body from releasing heat in an efficient manner. This is why it is necessary to hydrate and drink water, even when you are not thirsty. Increase water intake regardless of your activity levels.

2. Avoid caffeinated or carbonated beverages, alcoholic beverages, and those high in sugar.

All these drinks contain preservatives, colored additives and sugars. They are acidic in nature and act as diuretics. They cause loss of fluids through urine. Many soft drinks contain diluted phosphoric acid which may damage the inner lining of the digestive tract. Soft drinks also reduce mineral levels in the body to such an extent that enzymes are unable to function well, resulting in indigestion.

3. Do not drink very chilled liquids.They do not really help cool you down in summer heart, though they make you cool for the moment. Drinking really cold liquids when feeling hot may lead to a slight constriction of the blood vessels in the skin and decrease heat loss, which is not advisable when trying to cool down.

4. Lemon juice & coconut water work.

Believe it or not, drinking lemon juice mixed with natural water or coconut water (found in cans) easily replenish the fluids that are lost in sweat.

Tropical Fruit Freeze

1 6-oz. can frozen OJ concentrate,
thawed 3 cups pineapple juice
1 banana, pureed
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 12-oz. can ginger ale.

Place OJ concentrate in a 2-quart beverage container. Add pineapple juice, stir. Puree banana with lemon juice in blender. Add to OJ. Seal container, freeze for several hours until slushy. Stir in ginger ale when serving.

Fruit Drink

1 medium banana, sliced and frozen
1 C. strawberries, halved and frozen
1/4 C. orange juice concentrate, undiluted
1 1/2 C. low fat milk
1/4 tsp. almond extract

Process all ingredients in a blend until smooth. Makes 4 servings - 3/4 c each.

It's a great alternative to hot coffee on those hot days.

Minted Mocha Smoothie

A great alternative to hot coffee on a hot day.

2 cups strongly brewed coffee like espresso or Cuban coffee
Mint flavoring
1 1/2 cups no-fat milk

Mix cocoa powder and sugar in saucepan. Stir in enough coffee to make a paste. Add remaining coffee. Heat just to boiling, stir frequently. Cool slightly, add peppermint extract. Pour into ice cube trays or a shallow dish or pan. Freeze until almost solid. Place frozen coffee mixture in blender or food processor. Add milk, blend until smooth.

Healthy beverages on hit summer days can make a big difference in how feel all day long.

Brian Wolfe, M.S., is Fitness Director at The Fitness Firm. His fitness research has appeared in The American College of Sports Medicine Journal and The Journal of Strength Conditioning & Research.

Rendell Talks continued

ER: In terms of the middle class, I think the Republicans have done a very good job in various campaigns. Even going back to 1994 when Newt Gingrich and the Republicans took back control of Congress. They've done a very good job propagandizing. For example, they use the term "tax and spend fiscally irresponsible Democrats." Well, that's just not in accord with the facts. Clinton eliminated the deficit. It was zeroed out. Now, with a Republican president and Republicans controlling both houses of Congress, we have the largest deficit in the country's history. So, who are the fiscally responsible ones, Democrats or Republicans? Clearly, the Democrats.

Yet, if you polled the middle class on who could best manage their money, Democrats or Republicans, they'd say Republicans because the Republicans have done a very good propaganda job.

JF: Middle class voters side with Republicans on national defense. Why?

ER: I'll expose this belief as fallacy. Al Gore's plans for the military, in the 2000 election, would have dramatically increased funding over what Bush subsequently did. Let's also remember that Bill Clinton's military that went into Iraq in 2003.

JF: Any chance Pennsylvania will expand its gambling law beyond slot machines?

ED: Not at this time. We have to see how the expansion of the slot machines goes.

We have to gauge what impact, if any, is created, the economic benefits, and gauge the impact of the money the slots produces towards property tax relief. We have to look at all these things first.

JF: The state is viewed as politically conservative. True?

ER: Pennsylvania has historically been characterized as and remains a very conservative state. With initiatives such as slot machines, I may be one of the more progressive governors in state's recent history, polls also show that a strong majority of Pennsylvanians support the introduction of slot machines.

I think I campaigned very clearly and honestly. I said that we needed to change the way we do things in Pennsylvania. We needed significant change. I think, to a great degree, we have effectuated that change.

JF: From a public relations standpoint, a governor must have good relations with citizens indigenous to his residence. How are you doing?

ER: In terms of the local citizens, in Dauphin County, I have a great relationship. I think I have good relations because I'm the first governor in a long time to get out. I try not to stay within the governor's residence. Both my wife and I have had a great time here. We go to movies. We go to restaurants. We've tried to be pretty good citizens in the area. We don't just stay in Harrisburg. We go all over to places like Mechanicsburg, Camp Hill, and Union Deposit. I try to do a lot of events locally when I can.

Politically, I did better in Dauphin County than other Democrats in a long time. Once the election was over, I left partisanship behind. If you would ask the Republican Dauphin County Commissioners if we work well together I think they would say yes. I also have a great working relationship with Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed.

JF: Have you accomplished your campaign goals?

ER: I'm proud to say that I've already accomplished my major campaign promises. I've increased to 315,000 from 190,000 the number of people covered by the PACE Program.

continued on page 12

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News Notes continued

installation time for "Free." Customers, if they choose, may make a monetary donation to one of the charities since the watch battery is free.

To date, Morrow Farrar has donated nearly $10,000 to local charities by this method.

Charities: Mynd Works - A special clinic to treat learning disorders without drugs for children ages 3 – 17. Downtown Daily Bread, Harrisburg - Volunteers prepare cooked, nutritious meals for homeless and hungry people. It hasn't missed serving a daily meal in 20 years of existence. Humane society of Harrisburg Area - Increases quality of life for animals, primarily dogs & cats through two shelters. Offers large selection of adoptable pets. Relies solely on individual and business donations.

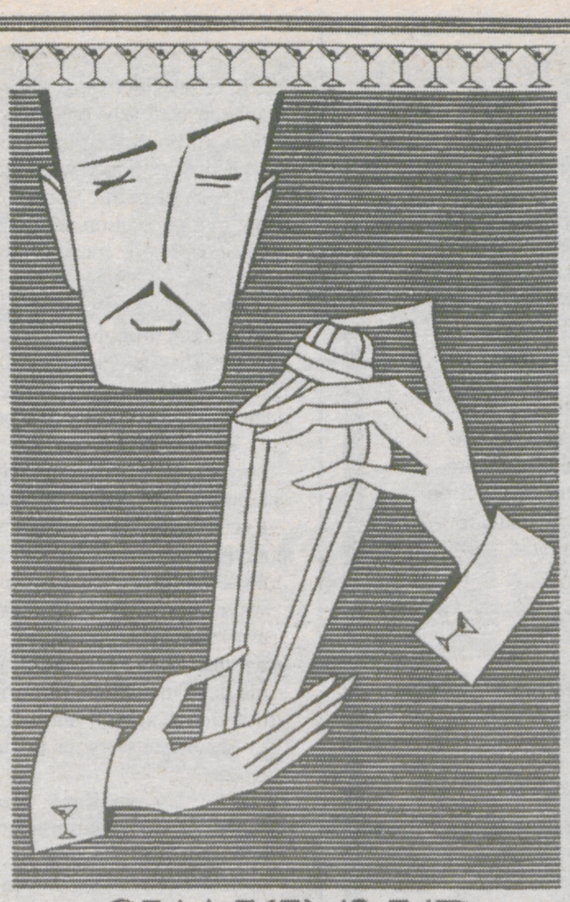
Morrow Farrar Jewelers is located at 3750 Market Street, Camp Hill. www.morrowfarrar.com

Alternative Central Freelancer Grabs Film Award

Alternative Central freelancer writer Sarah Schreckengaust recently won the "Audience Award" for her film "The Vendors." The award was presented as part of the 7th Annual Artsfest Film Festival presented by FilmSpeak.com and Moviate.

By winning the award, Schreckengaust joins filmmaker Rick McKay, whose popular film "Broadway: The Golden Age" will play at the 4th annual Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, October 7-13 at Harrisburg's Midtown Cinema. McKay's film, now in national release, won the award in 2003.

Other festival winners include: "Once Upon A Time There Was a King" (Best Narrative); OΪO" (Best Experimental and Best of Festival); "Eleven Years of Colours: Creating OΪO" (Best Documentary); "Mardi Gras: Made in China" (Honorable Mention, Best Documentary Category); "TV Guided" (Best Animation); "Grand Theft Submarine" (Honorable Mention, Animation Category); and "Tracks" (Best Local Film).



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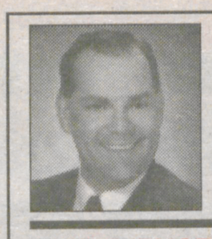

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Rendell Talks continued

I've provided an additional $300 million for early childhood education and tutoring, and last year signed the budget with the largest increase in public education funding in a generation and will continue to fight for more funding each year I am in office.

I've put together $2.3 million for economic stimulus programs, the nation's most aggressive, and June marked 70,000 new jobs created in the past year - that's real progress.

We expanded gaming for the purpose of reducing property taxes, a particularly heavy legislative lift. I've reduced the operational cost of state government by nearly $400 million, and will continue to find ways to save your money. We've also stemmed the flow of doctors with a well-respected and effective medical malpractice reform initiative that is already showing results.

JF: What are your biggest challenges?

ER: I have three main challenges - the environment, higher education, and healthcare. I'd like to see the Growing Greener Bond program that I've put before the legislature enacted. This May the voters of Pennsylvania overwhelmingly supporting a referendum to issue the largest environmental bond in state history - now we have get going on an effective way to use that money to improve our quality of life in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania ranks 48th out of the 50 states in the level of subsides given to community colleges, state colleges, and state-related colleges. I hope in 2005 to increase my commitment to state universities and to hold down the rising cost of tuition. My JobReady PA initiative bridges the gap between high school and higher education to help prepare our children for the jobs of today, as well as any person who wants to enhance their quality of life

continued on page 17

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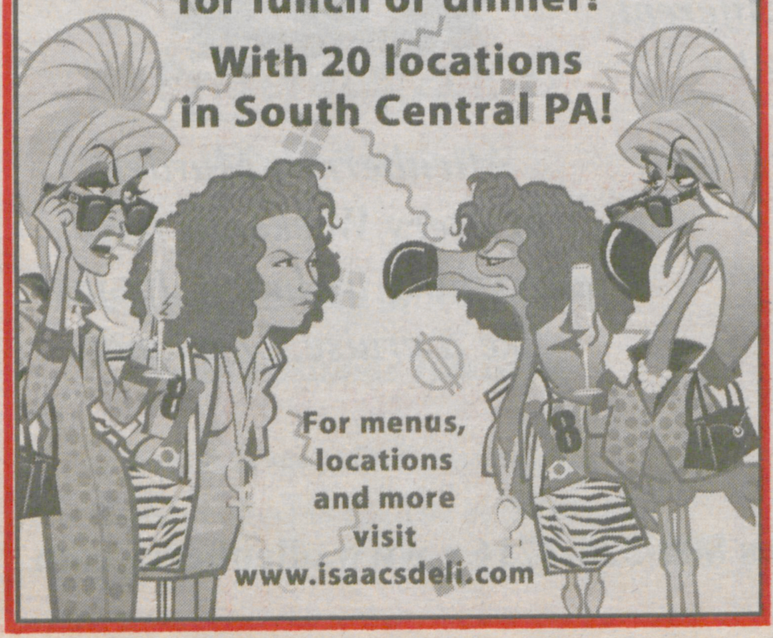

For menus, locations and more visit www.isaacsdeli.com

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June 21 - July 3

By Ray Cooney

JENNINGS

Ten Little Indians

July 5 - 17

By Agatha Christie

my three angels

July 19 - 31

By Sam and Bella Spewack

F&M TRUST

Roof

August 2 - 14

By David Auburn

SFK&Co

Barley Snyder

Patriot

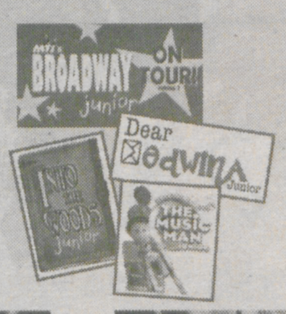
Mixed Emotions

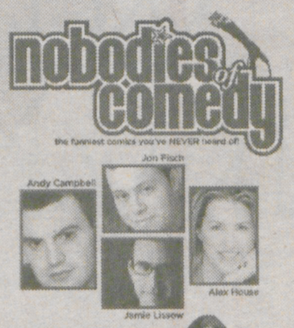
August 16 -28

By Richard Baer

13

Announcing the 2005-2006 season





George Winston
Fri., Oct. 21, 7:30 pm

Vince Gill
Sat., Oct. 22, 7:30 pm

Miss Saigon
Tues., Oct. 25, 7:30 pm
Wed., Oct. 26, 7:30 pm

Salute! To The World's Greatest Generation
Wed., Nov. 9, 2:00 & 7:30 pm

Broadway Junior
Sun., Nov. 20, 2:00 pm

Nobodies of Comedy
(Capitol Theatre)
Sat., Nov. 26, 7:30 pm

Blast
Mon., Dec. 5, 7:30 pm

Moscow Boys Choir:
Christmas Around the World
Sun., Dec. 18, 7:30 pm

Bowfire
Sun., Jan. 22, 7:30 pm

Trinity Irish Dance
Wed., Feb. 1, 7:30 pm

Peking Acrobats
Fri., Mar. 3, 7:30 pm

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MOVIE REVIEW

Movie Reviews by Kevyn Knox www.thecinematheque.com

Y Tu Mama Tambien (2001, Alfonso Cuaron, Mexico)

With longingly aching looks, constant homoerotic tension and even a poolside semi-circle jerk, Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna play the yin to each other's yang in this hot Mexican love triangle - yes there is a woman involved too, but just for show we think. A road trip movie about two young men coming to grips with life, love and the closeness of one another - through anger, pain and a long-anticipated yet unexpected drink-induced embrace.

Happy Together (1997, Wong Kar-wai, Hong Kong)

Hong Kong provocateur and acclaimed hyper-sensed auteur, Wong Kar-wai, brings us the story of two lovers travelling in South America. It plays like a soap opera on acid, ether, amphetamines and bad tequila. Paced like a cheetah, Wong's film tells of the ups and downs and ins and outs and more ins and outs of these two young men. Highly energized and even more highly eroticized.

Dreamers (2003, Bernardo Bertolucci, Italy/France/USA)

Bertolucci brings the story of a young cinephile to life. Newly planted in Paris in the mid sixties (at the height of the art film movement and the French new Wave), Michael Pitt finds himself embroiled in the middle of a three-way love affair between a brother and a sister and himself. Did I mention these are twin brother and sisters? Permeated with clips of cinematic history and just enough sexual playfulness to garner an NC-17 rating, The Dreamers will blow you away - and you can take that any way you wish.

Camp (2003, Todd Graff, USA)

Fame for the next generation! The story of a summer camp full of just enough social outcasts to become a talent show waiting to happen. Okay, actually it's a camp for the performing arts, and yes it is (excuse this inevitable pun) campy, but still a lot of fun for the not-so-serious filmgoer.

Plus a short review of a short film:

Sissy Boy Slap Party (1995, Guy Maddin, Canada)

This short little four minute film - which can be found as a special feature on Maddin's DVD release of The Saddest Music in the World - is exactly what it sounds like - complete with banging African drum beats.

Lesbian Notions: Straight Down the Aisle

By Paula Martinac

In a few days, my partner, Katie, and I will be driving almost 1,000 miles roundtrip to attend a niece's wedding; two months later, we'll make the same trip for a second niece's nuptials. I wish I could feel excited about these occasions, but the politically minded lesbian in me simply can't. Oh, I love wedding cake as much as the next person, and I'm happy for the young couples. But it would be nice to hear one or both of our nieces say, "Until my lesbian aunts have the right to get legally married in this country, I won't be walking down the aisle either."

Obviously, that's a fantasy, the kind of heart-wrenching pronouncement that only gets made on "Queer as Folk" by over-the-top PFLAG mom Debbie Novotny. In real life, few straight people would ever consider such a bold move. Indeed, few people, straight or gay, ever put their own rights and happiness on hold to make political points about the discrimination of others. I seriously doubt, for example, that many white Freedom Riders postponed getting married back in the days when interracial couples couldn't legally do so.

Of course, even my "wishing" that our nieces would take such a pro-gay stand could be construed as selfish and "too much to ask." Gay people are expected to attend straight weddings with enthusiasm, outstretched checkbooks, and no qualms. But couldn't it be seen as selfish of straight people who support equal marriage rights to continue getting married while their gay friends and family are forbidden to by law - except in one tiny state?

Maybe wanting straight people to stand up for us "is" a lot to ask. But more and more, it seems clear that queer activism alone on issues like marriage can only take us so far. If a recent poll from the "Boston Globe" is accurate, the number of Americans who are undecided or neutral about gay marriage is decreasing - but, unfortunately, they're deciding to fall into the "defend traditional marriage" column instead of the "equal rights for all" one. The radical right has seemingly been doing a good job of scaring folks about our unions' supposed threat to heterosexual society.

How, then, to get more progressive-minded straight people actively involved on the issue of marriage rights? One way, of course, is to attend all those straight family and friends' weddings - instead of, as gay activist Eric Rofes suggested in frustration a few years back, boycotting them. Our presence at these events is probably more necessary than ever - the face of same-sex relationships is an important one for straight people to see. On the other hand, our absence from such events might be seen as hurtful or, well, selfish - or dismissed as inappropriately political.

By attending, we might even insert a bit of politics into these supposedly nonpolitical events. (I say "supposedly" because the right has made heterosexual marriage a highly political issue.) For our upcoming family weddings, Katie and I will be traveling to Connecticut, a state that just recently passed civil-unions legislation in lieu of marriage, and the opportunity might arise to broach the topic with other family members and guests. Similarly, if you attend a wedding in a state with anti-gay-marriage legislation, that would be another good topic for wedding-reception discussion.

Or consider including with your wedding gift a contribution to an organization like Freedom to Marry (www.freedomtomarry.org); enclose in your card a note about your reason for making the donation. If your relatives or friends are avid readers, a copy of Evan Wolfson's accessible and well-argued Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality, and Gay People's Right to Marry would slip very nicely into the box with their blender or vase. There's also a report from the Human Rights Campaign called "To Have and To Hold? Maybe Not," which collects the true stories of same-sex couples who have been denied the protections of marriage. (You can download it at www.hrc.org.)

With close friends or family members, you might go a step further and admit that attending a straight wedding at this moment in time - when anti-gay-marriage sentiment runs so high - is difficult or painful for you. Even though it's unlikely they'll call off their own wedding, the couple just might opt to make a public statement in favor of equal-marriage rights at their ceremony or reception.

All of these suggestions up the ante on our personal activism. It's one thing to attend a marriage-rights rally or fundraiser; it's quite another to ask our loved ones to face the reality of our discrimination on a day that's supposed to be the pinnacle of heterosexual happiness. Yet, without more active support from straight people, we're going to hit an impasse on marriage rights - if we haven't already.

Paula Martinac is a playwright, novelist, and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Letters to the Editor continued

Mark Lemkelde
Owners, Forever Books Inc.

Pride Committee *Is* Competent

Dear Editor:

My curiosity was piqued when I saw a reference to the "unfortunate incident" involving the Pride flags that need to be replaced for this year's festival.

I guess I'm so used to being in the political wilderness (AKA being a Bush-basher) that I view official statements with some suspicion and inquired further into the incident.

As a consequence, I was very pleasantly surprised at the time and effort a Pride Fest official (Marc-Carroll Rigel, Pride Treasurer) expended to very patiently explain the circumstances surrounding the destruction of the flags to me.

Had I been in a leadership position at the time, I might well have discussed the incident of city workers leaving Pride Flags on the ground with the City Human Relations Commission.

I think I would have made a greater effort to publicize the incident closer to the time it occurred.

And regarding the individual grants Pride makes to charitable organizations, I certainly would publicize the dollar amounts and the process utilized to arrive at them.

Still, hindsight is 20-20 and I am satisfied that the Pride Committee is competent and well-meaning. All organizations however have room for improvement. If I were asked, Iâ ™d suggest that Pride could improve on the transparency and openness of its actions.

All told, they are to be applauded for the tremendous volunteer effort they make time and time again on behalf of Central PA's GLBT Community. Hereâ ™s wishing you the most successful Pride yet!

Jim Akers, Harrisburg

High School Slam Book

Dear Editor,

My thanks to Marc-Carroll Rigel for his response to my questions in my Letter to the Editor in the last issue (May/ June 2005) of Alternative Central. Marc's answers were interesting, and a few were less than satisfactory.

In regards to the "unfortunate event" concerning the flags, yes it was unfortunate, but at the same time it is a bit disconcerting to say the least. It's sad to hear that these flags, our symbols of LGBT Pride, were left lying in the rain and the mud until the next day. If the city was out in the rain removing the crowd control fencing, then why wasn't there someone from the Pride Committee out there to retrieve the flags? Were the bags of flags sitting near the trash that the city garbage collectors mistook them for trash? Why wasn't anyone paying attention to these bags? I hope in the future that proper safeguards will be in place so that this "unfortunate event" does not ever happen again.

This "unfortunate event" should have been brought to light soon after it happened, and then perhaps the "flag fund" could've been started much, much sooner. A word of advice for the Pride Committee, in the future when asking for monetary donations for items for Pride, please explain why you are asking for donations, don't just say "due to an unfortunate event".

It was nice to "see" some kind of an explanation of the Financial Report for Pride 2003 and 2004. There are a lot of people who do not understand the reports as this one was presented in Alternative Central. Like I said before, mostly what people want to know is did Pridefest make money, and if so, where did the money go? What organizations benefited from PrideFest? It was good to see which organizations benefited from

continued on page 17

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Harrisburg's Midtown District

Parisburg for a Day

By Sarah Schreckengaust

Parisian visitors seek out the storybook tableau in the Montmartre hilltop district. Around the corner from the Sacré-Coeur basilica, painters in berets and wielding palettes pack Place du Tertre with easels.

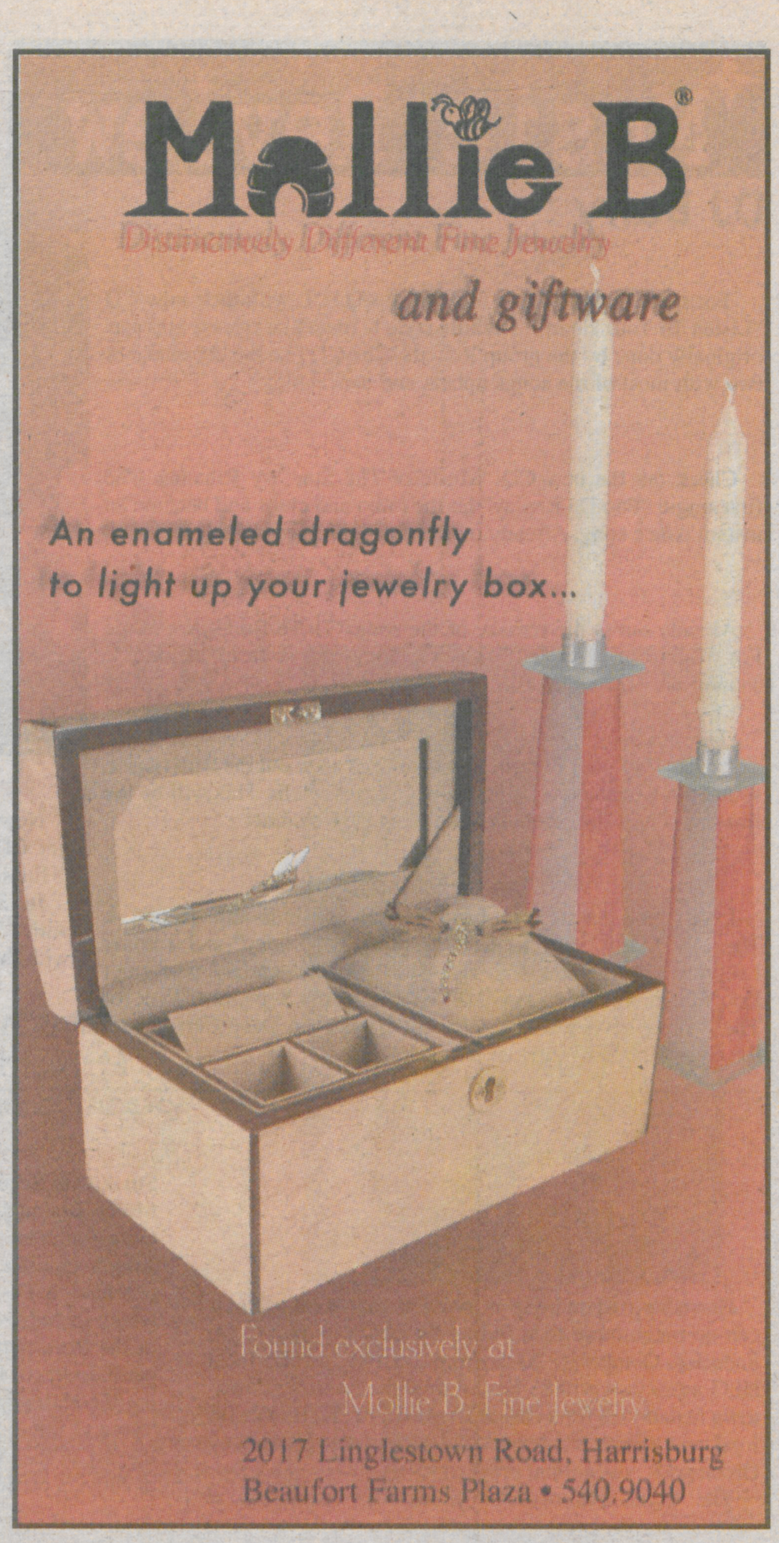
As they paint plein air, artists charm tourists. The energy in the air is often more about entertainment than artwork. The popular Paris attraction proves that watching artists paint can beat watching paint dry.

We may not have Paris, but we'll have Parisburg for a day in Harrisburg September 11. That's when The 7 Lively Artists (& More) Paint Midtown. From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., 19 artists will pitch studios on street corners from Forster to Reily Streets., Third Street to the Susquehanna River. They will paint the late summer scene before them.

Paint Midtown is an outdoor complement to the Art Association of Harrisburg's annual Gallery Walk, also September 11. Pedestrians can pick up maps at participating galleries to find the location of each painter.

Paint Midtown is the vision of Midtown resident, Jim Woland. He dreamt up the idea as an way to promote artists. Woland also wanted to showcase the Midtown district as an arts-friendly neighborhood and to encourage economic development. He enlisted help from Friends of Midtown, the Midtown Square Action Council, the Harrisburg Young Professionals and, of course, the Art Association.\

continued on page 19



Music Review

DJ Barry : Hot Dance Hits

D.H.T.

For something new and fun look for D.H.T. with their new CD "Listen To Your Heart." The title song is their first release and was originally done by the group Roxette. The CD features a remake or two with most of the songs upbeat and danceable.

Rihanna

Check out the new CD "Music of The Sun" by Rihanna. The first single "Pon De Replay" hit the radio and clubs and became an instant dance song. Already on the way is the second release.

Jessica Simpson

Already out is the remake of the song "These Boots Are Made For Walkin" by Jessica Simpson. The song is from the movie soundtrack "Dukes Of Hazard".

QAF 5th Season

For more of your favorite dance music check out the fifth season sound track of the television show Queer As Folk. This will be the final season of the hit show from Showtime channel.

Hootie & the Blowfish Resurface

Look some classic rock bands resurface this month. Hootie & The Blowfish release the CD "Looking For Lucky" and Tommy Lee releases "Tommyland The Ride". The legendary performer Eric Clapton releases the CD "Back Home". In September look for The Rolling Stones with "A Bigger Band" and Deep Purple with the CD "Who Do We Think We Are."

New Country

New country releases feature Faith Hill with her CD "Fireflies" and Brooks & Dune with "Hillbilly Deluxe."

In September, look for Trisha Yearwood with "Jasper County" and the group Lonestar with the CD "Coming Home."

News Notes continued

Harrisburg Symphony Presents "Second Street Stroll"

Harrisburg Symphony is proving that its musicians can do much more than follow the beat of a baton. On Saturday, October 1, 2005, from 2-5 PM, several local HSO musicians will be hosted by three fantastic downtown restaurants for a casual afternoon of entertainment, food and spirits to support the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra's educational programs.

The event features The Klinefelter Jazz Trio at Stock's On Second, Eric Henry's Hot House jazz band at Molly Brannigan's, and at Zia's HSO Concertmaster Odin Rathnam will be joined by fellow HSO violinist Joseph Esmilla. "Second Street Stroll" attendees may purchase a Passport to gain entry to the restaurants, which includes one free beverage and appetizers at each of the three participating restaurants. Passports are $35 per individual, $60 per couple, and are available by calling the Harrisburg Symphony office at (717) 545-5527. "Second Street Stroll" Passports may also be purchased the day of the event at Molly Brannigans, Zia's Trattoria or Stock's on Second.

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Stallions & AIDS Community Alliance

Amethyst Diamond Miss Central PA Gay Pride

Lancaster's Amethyst Diamond (Dustin Brown), 25, is Miss Central PA Gay Pride for 2005-2006.

"I made my stage debut in 1998. The venue was Club 55 in SE Washington, DC," Diamond says. A friend of hers was involved with the performance company "The Washington Academy of Arts," which remains in full production today. "I expressed my interest in performing and they gave me a shot," she says.

For the next year 18 months, Diamond performed at Club 55 and then decided to hold off until after she was 21 so that she could enter bars in her area. "I lived in York at the time and traveling two hours to DC was a little much."

Stallions & AIDS Community Alliance

Diamond first appeared in Harrisburg in 2001. "We went to Stallions and were fortunate enough to get there in time for a drag show. I watched a bunch of Diva's get whip cream pies thrown in their faces!" The event was a benefit for AIDS Community Alliance. "You could either buy a queen for a night or pay to throw a pie in her face."

Brownstone Next

A few weeks later, I debuted at The Brownstone Lounge where I met Diva-extraordinaire Glenda, the fabulous Kelly Green, the talented Miss Biscuit (responsible for all Pride talent bookings in 2004 and 2005), and Missy Monroe (rumored to be Marilyn Monroe from Heaven). "One thing led to

continued below

Men's Health

by Brian Wolfe, The Fitness Firm

BIA = Body Composition & Fat... What?

Bring in this article for FREE Body Composition test at The Fitness Firm.

Let's talk fat. Your body is composed of two components in terms of body composition: fat mass and fat-free mass. Both components are important in being healthy and looking aesthetically pleasing.

Fat-free mass is everything - muscle, bone, and body fluids – except your actual fat mass. Body fat is only fat, which is essential to daily body functions. It cushions the joints and protects the organs and helps regulate body temperature. Everyone needs some body fat to be active and healthy.

Most people think that body weight, and not body fat, is a direct indication of fitness. You can lose weight but not lose fat, which sometimes can be deceiving. Using body fat monitors to measure changes in body composition gives a more realistic picture of fitness.

BIA Method

There are many methods to measure body fat ranging from underwater weighing to skin calipers. One quick, reliable and painless method to measure body fat is BIA (Bioelectrical Impedance). BIA measures the resistance to a signal as it travels through the water that is found in your muscle and fat. Impedance is greatest in fat tissue, which contains only 10-20% water, while fat-free mass, which contains 70-75% water, allows the signal to pass much more easily. By using the impedance measurements along with a person's height and weight, and body type (gender, age, fitness level), it is possible to calculate the percentage of body fat, fat-free mass, hydration level, and metabolic rate.

Using BIA to estimate a person's body fat assumes that the body is within normal hydration ranges. When a person is dehydrated, the amount of fat tissue can be overestimated. Factors that can affect hydration include not drinking enough fluids, drinking too much caffeine, exercising or, diuretics (substances that deplete water), or a woman's menstrual cycle. Measuring under consistent conditions will yield best results with this method.

Easy Drill

In the traditional BIA method, a person lies on a cot and electrodes are placed on the hands and bare feet. Now BIA is a simplified procedure: You take off your shoes and socks and step on a scale. A company called Tanita has developed a version of BIA that uses leg-to-leg bioimpedance analysis. In this system, two footpad electrodes are incorporated into the platform of an electronic scale. A person's measurements are taken while in a standing position with the electrodes in contact with bare feet. The body fat analyzer automatically measures weight and then impedance. Computer software imbedded in the product uses the measured impedance, the subject's gender, height, fitness level, age, and weight to determine body fat percentage based on equation formulas.

Motivator

A body composition test is a great motivator to start off an exercise program. Take the test once per month and track your changes. If no changes are taking place, you then know you have to modify your diet and/or exercise program. Bring in this article and get your free Body Composition Test at The Fitness Firm.

Brian Wolfe, M.S., is Fitness Director at The Fitness Firm. His fitness research has appeared in The American College of Sports Medicine Journal and The Journal of Strength Conditioning & Research.

Transgender: Gender Etiquette Is Important

By Kristen Richards

You reach a pinnacle in your transition when you're referred to as "ma'am, she or her." It's a real compliment. Strangers no longer look twice or strike a pose with the blank Central Pennsylvania stare.

Finally, you've arrived at that special moment of "blending in." However, as you make this milestone, one of the remaining hurdles is educating friends, family and coworkers on gender etiquette and proper name recognition. Hopefully, they've been well informed, every step of the way.

Remaining patient with your special circle while crossing the gender/name hump is critical. After all, most may have known you quite well as the opposite gender. It takes time for the evolution to occur, some quicker than others. Nevertheless, it can be frustrating – for both parties.

During my quest, I uncovered certain trends. Women, in general are more perceptive than men, identifying subtle messages you send. No offense to men. In fact, some men do. Those subtleties include eye brows – plucked, gloss or traces of nails polish, mannerisms, the direction at which the buttons on your shirt, zipper or pockets are positioned, or sudden addition of pastels in your wardrobe. Interest in their jewelry, hair, make-up clothes and other curiosities over their tangible items. Women notice quicker.

While transitioning, hormone

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Miss Central PA continued

another and I was doing two or three shows monthly," Diamond says.

In 2001, Diamond competed in the Miss Gay Pride Pageant. "I came in last out of three girls, but hoped that one day I would win the title!" she reveals. Six months after my first Harrisburg appearance, she competed for Miss Gay PA 2002 and placed third out of 13 contestants. "I continued competing throughout the following year for various bar titles, but it wasn't till November of 2002 that I won my first title - Miss Stallions 2003.

In 2003 Diamond also won the title Miss Gay Harrisburg America 2003 and returned back to the state

level, taking 1st Alternate and a chance to compete nationally for Miss Gay America. Exactly four weeks after my give-up for Miss Harrisburg in 2004, I was crowned Miss Scarab 2004. "Two months shy of my give-up, the bar, unfortunately, closed down and I was deemed Miss Scarab Emeritus."

Finally, last July, four years after I first ran for the title, I was crowned Miss Central Pennsylvania Gay Pride 2005-2006. "I can't begin to tell you what an honor it is to be the repre-

continued on page 27

Parisburg continued

Event headliners are an ever-evolving group of artists that started painting together in Harrisburg and abroad in the mid-50s. The current members are Earl Blust, Don Brandt, Joe Dudding, Jonathan Frazier, David R. Henry, Robert Hughes, Don Lenker and Ed Webber. Joining them for Paint Midtown are several other established and emerging central Pennsylvania artists: Kelley Aldridge, Kelly Charlesworth, Rob Evans, Paul Gallo, Jeff Johnson, William Kocher, Pat Koscienski, Cheryl A Miehl, Richard H. Neff, Diana Nissen and Steve Wetzel.

Jeff Johnson spends most of his time on his company's biggest project - restoring the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Capitol building. His work there allows him to indulge in one of his fascinations: interpreting color. Through paint analysis and a little imagination, his team at Albert Michaels Conservation Inc. uncovers and imitates the paints that the artists used 100 years ago. Johnson's original work, such as his series of the Susquehanna River at night, also reflects his experience mixing paints with colors so intense that they seem to draw you in. "I just keep adding color until it feels like something," he explains.

September 11 Johnson will set his easel right across from the river at the corner of Front and Boas Streets. While he plans to work in masonite and paper and has a few sketches prepared, he's going into it open minded. "It's going to be fun for me because I don't know what's going to come out," he says.

From Diana Nissen's location on Reily Street, she already has her sites fixed on the ethnic restaurants north of Third. The buildings have just the right amount of character that Nissen looks for in an image. "There's something there that catches your eye," she says. "Afternoon Shadows," her rendition of an old white house is currently on display in the Art of the State exhibit at the Pennsylvania State Museum. This is her third year in the statewide exhibit.

Classic trucks are her other favorite subjects, and her affinity for painting them may be a product of her youth. Her father was the head of industrial design for Navistar International Corporation, North America's largest commercial truck producer. The position earned him cult status in design capitals like Sweden. Nissen would visit him at work as a child and marvel at the life size mock ups made out of red clay. She now goes looking for older models at area junkyards. "I usually take a small painting or picture, and next thing you know, they're helping me find old trucks," she says.

Paint Midtown's youngest artist is Kelley Aldridge at 23-years-old. "I was actually very surprised to see my name on the Paint Midtown lineup," she said. "Many of the artists are well-established, reputable and super talented." Aldridge got serious about painting during her first semester at Harrisburg Area Community College. She now holds two art degrees and has set the spring as her deadline to finish a solid body of work to show. "My favorite thing about painting," she says, "is the idea of creating something out of nothing…starting with a blank canvas and watching it develop."

September 11, Aldridge takes her oils to Boas Street between Green and Third, where she expects to focus on the architecture that creates the urban landscape. She feels very lucky to participate in this inaugural event in Harrisburg. "Art makes our world more beautiful and interesting, and I like being a part of that."

Following the event, the paintings, in addition to other work by

continued on page 27

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Leave the Gridlock of Life for Lititz

By Shannon M. Zimmerman

The romance of "small town" Lancaster County is always in season when traveling to Lititz. The best time to revel in the charisma of this Pennsylvania Dutch retreat is spring and summer. That's when green, leafy foliage beckons drivers to leave the red light gridlock of Route 501 and navigate the streets of Lititz on foot.

Shoppers, historians, adventurers, and connoisseurs of food will relish in the town settled by Moravians in the 1750s. Both the Lititz Historical Foundation and the Lititz Museum Store share fanciful collections of local artifacts and offer day-trippers a self-guided walking tour.

History blooms all year and this strolling tour showcases some of Lititz's most stunning glimpses into history, with about 17 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It's hard not to be winded by the stately architecture – primarily wood, stone, and brick – that decorate the streets of this mid-18th century milieu.

100 Cultured Businesses

Historic Main Street furthermore combines nearly 100 cultured businesses. From pottery to music, consignment clothing to elaborate household furnishings, you'll want to allot ample time and credit if shopping is your sport of choice.

Enjoy a taste of the local life when you stop for a refreshing chilled latte at Dosie Dough, a slice of cheesy heaven at Nino's New York Style Pizza or a full course meal presented by the General Sutter Inn.

Chocolate & Pretzel

Have a pen chance for chocolate? Follow your nose! You won't have to walk far to find the Wilbur Chocolate Company Candy Americana Museum. Antique candy-making equipment and specialty kitchen demonstrations are the main attraction – well, except for the Wilbur buds. Lititz locals choose buds over kisses, made in this back to basics factory. In fact, 120 million pounds of chocolate are produced each year. Thankfully, all of the Wilbur goodies are available in the museum store.

Still hear your stomach rumbling? Twist your way to the Julius Sturgis Pretzel House, said to be America's first pretzel bakery. Established in 1861, your admission fee guarantees the opportunity to learn the secret of shaping this salty treat. Your pretzel is then baked in a brick oven in the dimly-lit, atmospheric kitchen.

Lititz Springs Park

You can attain a duck's eye view of Lititz when you make your way to Lititz Springs Park. Splashed in central Lititz, this park features a natural waterway where birds and ducks flock to be fed. Sheltered by tall trees as old as the town, Lititz Springs Park is a breezy picnic backdrop or a hideaway for a noontime siesta. This park is also the locale for two special summer events – the Lititz Craft Fair in June and a patriotic Fourth of July celebration replete with fireworks.

Go-Karts, Golf, Fishing

There are also a few action-oriented activities in Lititz. First, challenge your beloved to a go-kart race or a miniature golf game at High Sports. Then, allow your competitive spirit to sink or swim at Speedwell Forge, located six miles beyond Lititz on Brubaker Valley Road West.

Though the road appears unassuming, the blacktop leads to a popular, man-made lake. Fishing from the shorelines or boating (non-motor only) across the glistening water, you'll be sure to encounter turtles sunning on a downed log or geese nesting their young. It's tranquil at Speedwell Forge, and the sweet smell of nature mixes with the pungent farmland aroma. Watching the sun set from the comfort of your kayak or canoe will calm your soul after an eventful day.

12 B&Bs, 4 Hotels, 1 Campground

Lititz is drivable and doable from your home in Central Pennsylvania within one day. Should you care to spend an evening or a weekend in this Bohemian-inspired town, accommodations are as plentiful as the sights. You can be hosted at one of 12 independently-owned bed and breakfast spots, four hotels, or one campground – all within ten miles of the downtown cross section.

You can see it all in a day or stay the night, but you'll remember the allure of Lititz forever.

Freelance writer Shannon M. Zimmerman lives in Lancaster County.

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Food

Zephyr Express Offers New with Regular Hits

Diners find Ahi Tuna to Zephyr Melt at the ever popular North Street Zephyr Express, 231 North Street, Harrisburg (717-233-2009). The charming restaurant is near Second Street's Restaurant Row, but offers convenient and quiet sidewalk café seating and an outside courtyard one customer calls "Harrisburg's best kept secret."

Kitchen Manager Chuck Diegel Jr brings a palette full of experience to the affordably-priced establishment. With credits that include training at Pittsburgh's Cordon Bleu School, the Alcoma Golf Club, and opening Heinz Field, Diegel says, "Our kitchen is about freshness and quality."

Besides himself, Diegel has three others in his kitchen. One bartender and six wait staff are so familiar with diners, they often hear friendly, discreet greetings as staff wait tables. "I can often tell by an order who's in our dining room. If time permits, I'll step out to say hello," Diegel says.

Ahi Tuna

The Ahi Tuna is blessed with a seven pepper and spice blend with soy ginger sauce. "We lightly sauté tuna to order, usually rare to medium or medium rare, or more if requested," Diegel says. He also offers a "fresh catch" fish selection

Blackberry Chicken

Zephyr's new menu item Herb Crusted Blackberry Chicken is

continued below

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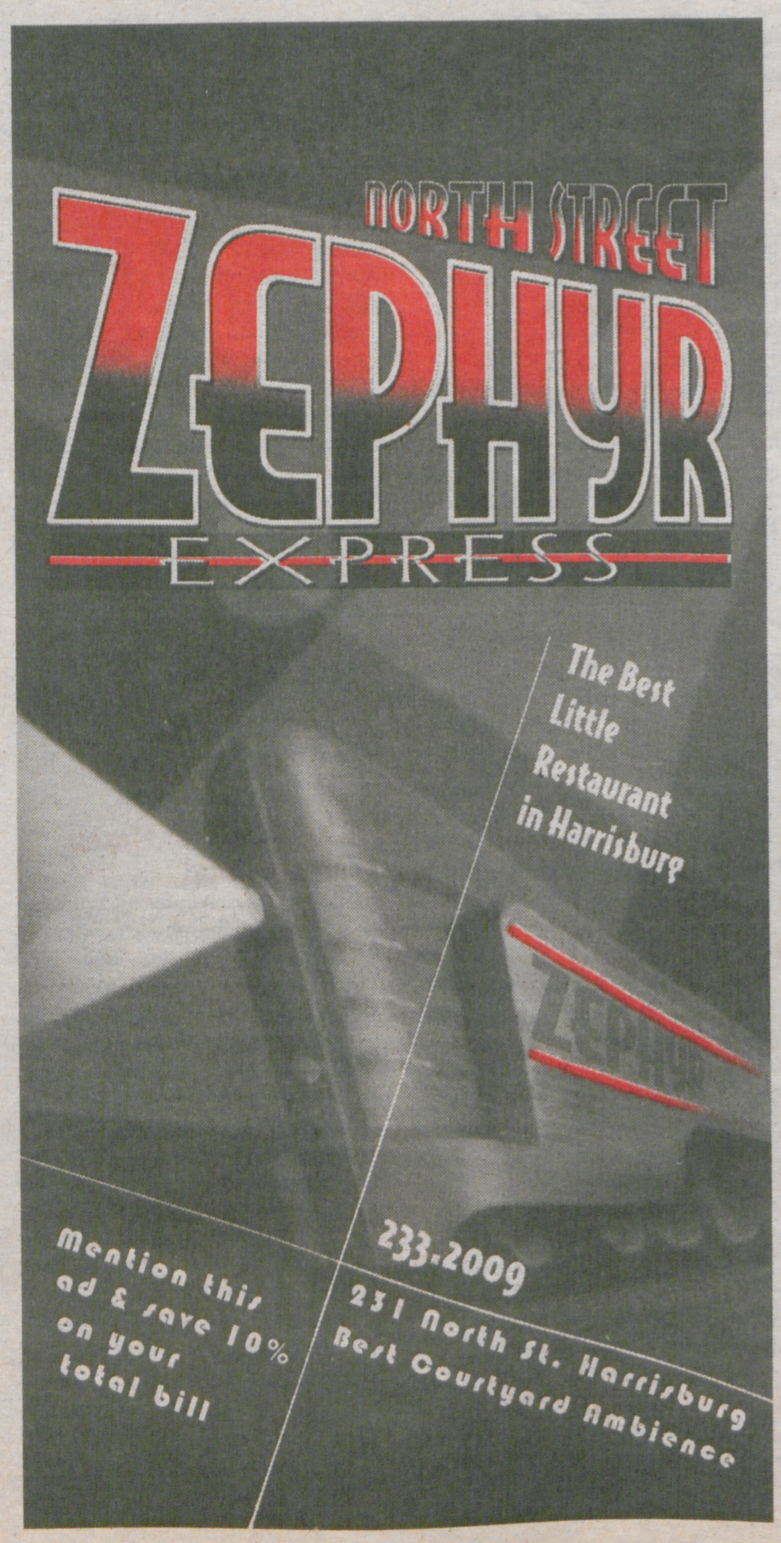

Zephyr continued

deliciously cooked in light olive oil and then ladled with fresh berry glaze. For other menu items, Diegel also makes his own Fresh Ginger Mayonnaise.

California Croissant

"We came up with a popular twist," Diegel says, referring to his California croissant. "It's just like a California roll but instead we use a croissant.

The Regulars

Zephyr's fabled Angel Hair Pasta and Flatbread Pizza remains. "One hot item is our sea food combo in a light cream sauce over pasta or a flatbread pizza," Diegel says. While located at what is now MARS on Second Street, Zephyr built its original "cache" with flatbread pizzas served on high trays and pastas with fresh sauces.

Hours: M-Th: 11:30-10; Fri. 11:30-11; Sat. 5-11. Sun. closed.

Lancaster's Molly's Pub Changes Hands

The sale of Molly's Pub is complete with Anthony Maglietta assuming ownership. Look for Italian Night with Owner/Chef Maglietta in the kitchen. Multi-talented entertainer Sal Anthony will perform Thursday and Friday 7-11 p.m. Anthony performs in addition to regular live jazz acts in Act Two Friday and Saturday 9-midnight. Reservations suggested. Located on the corner of North Shippen and Chestnut Streets; 717.396.0225.

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Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 10-4pm

Maggart continued

performers from decades ago.

Harrisburg area music lovers will have the opportunity to experience Maude Maggart first-hand this fall when she will be the featured performer at the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg's 10th annual Fall Achievement Benefit (FAB) Fundraiser at The Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg, November 19, 2005.

The 30-ish chanteuse made her 2001 debut at Hollywood's cabaret hotspot The Gardenia. Her intelligent interpretation of songs made popular some seven decades ago caused such a stir that Gardenia owner Tom Rolla subsequently invited Maggart to perform an open-ended weekly show. Since then, Maggart has headlined at Schroeder's Cabaret in San Diego, the Royal Room in Palm Beach and Danny's Skylight Room in New York. In fact, her New York debut was at none other than the historic Algonquin Hotel's Oak Room where she will perform again for a two-week engagement in September. Her two performances in 2005 on Keillor's radio program brought her a modest amount of national attention according to her father and manager, actor and producer Brandon Maggart.

As for Maggart's musical talent, she comes by it honestly.

"My parents were in the original [Broadway] cast of Applause," Maggart said in a recent interview with *Alternative Central*. "We always had music playing around the house, original cast albums, Bette Midler, that sort of thing."

In addition to the musical influences of her parents, Maggart's grandmother debuted on Broadway in George White's Scandals of 1926, a rival to the Ziegfeld Follies brand of entertainment. As if that were not enough, Maude Maggart

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BROAD STREET MARKET

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News Notes continued

Nigeria Slammed Over Gay Stoning

By Andrew Noyes

A coalition of US congressional leaders on international and human rights issues sent a letter to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo this week, voicing strong concern over the recent case of a Nigerian man sentenced to death by stoning for sodomy.

Twenty-two House Democrats, led by gay Democrat Representative Barney Frank, told the leader of the African nation that "the specific circumstances of this conviction are highly problematic" and that execution of any individual for private, adult, consensual sexual activity is "grossly inhumane" and "below the standards that any civilized society should uphold".

The 50-year-old from the ancient northern state of Kano was accused of having sex with another man, which led to his arrest and appearance before a Sharia court.

Trust Fund to Study Same-Sex Benefits

A board that oversees health-care benefits of state workers recently voted unanimously to study the possibility of extending coverage to same-sex partners and unmarried heterosexual couples who live together.

The Pennsylvania Employees Benefit Trust Fund board will examine how other states have implemented domestic-partner benefits for public employees, as well as the approach taken by private and nonprofit corporations, David Fillman, the board's chairman, said.

"It's been thought about for at least last two years by some of the various unions," said Fillman, who is also executive director of the largest state workers' union, Council 13 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Hidley Show Boasts Record Sales

The Art Association of Harrisburg recently sold in record numbers the abstract expressionist paintings of the late Charles "Li" Hidley. Several hundred art lovers visited 21 North Front Street to enjoy the vast collection of Hidley paintings, 26 of which sold for a total of $8,500.

Li Hidley, who had moved to Harrisburg from New York in the mid-60's, had been an influential instructor and curator at the Art Association since 1979. Just before his death in 2003, he donated all his unsold work to the Association to continue to show and sell as an ongoing legacy. In fact, this successful weekend sale of his work came at a most timely juncture, with an emergency roofing project looming for the organization, says president Carrie Wissler-Thomas.

There are still approximately 400 paintings in the Association collection, all still available for viewing and purchase, albeit no longer displayed throughout the main galleries. Contact Wissler-Thomas at 717-236-1432.

For more information about Hidley's biography, visit www.artassocofh-bg.com.

San Diego Gets a Lesbian Mayor

San Diego became the largest city in America with an openly gay mayor July 25 when the remaining members of the City Council chose lesbian Councilwoman Toni Atkins to fill the position until December.

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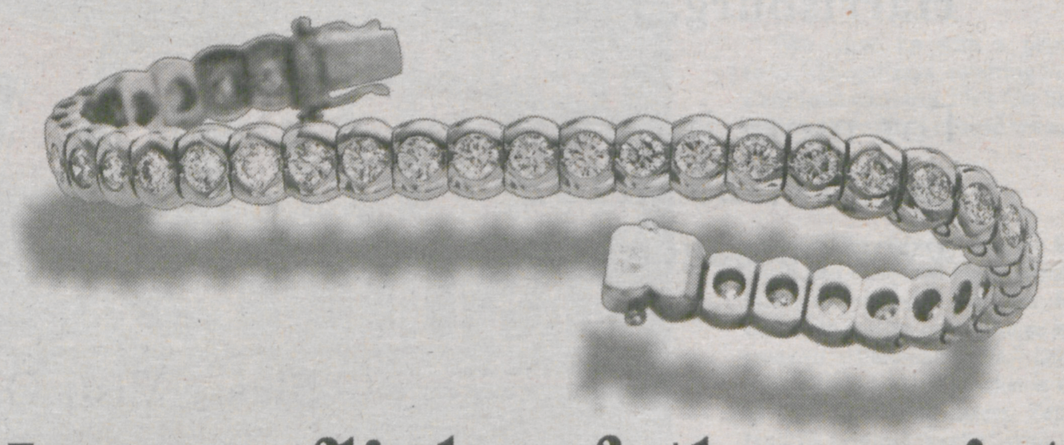

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Band Review:
The Shore

By John Fox

Maverick Records "The Shore" hail from sunny California. They push out an even blend of psychedelic rock reminiscent of the legendary Brit-rockers Oasis. Front man Ben Ashley took time in between touring to talk with Alternative Central.

Ashley, 27, was born in San Francisco and raised in Philadelphia. Music was prominent in his house growing up and there were always records lying around. His personal relationship with music began at 16. He played different instruments in many of his friends' bands.

Like most young bands, they practiced anywhere they could - attics, garages, and basements. Ashley said that it wasn't until five years ago that he started writing songs of his own and "The Shore" is the first band he has ever fronted.

"I never really played out until Shore," Ashley says. "It's the first band that I really wrote the songs for and sang for. This is the first band I ever fronted and ran the show."

Being a Los Angeles transplant, Ashley talks about the bi-coastal contrast. "L.A.'s way more laid back," said Ashley. "It kinda suits me better 'cuz you can get away to the ocean or the mountains. The East coast definitely formed a lot of the personality in me." Ashley has started writing material for their second Maverick release.

Many bands struggle their entire careers chasing major labels. Ashley talks about the bands relationship with Maverick. "It's been a learning experience," Ashley says. "They're really cool in the sense that they allowed us to make the

continued on page 30

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News Notes continued

Former Mayor Dick Murphy resigned July 15 amid a massive employee pension-funding debacle. At that point, Councilman Michael Zucchet, who held the rotating position of deputy mayor, took over.

But, three days later, Zucchet and Councilman Ralph Inzunza were convicted of multiple felonies in a case involving bribes from a strip-club owner who wanted a no-touch law repealed. Heterosexual! What are we going to do?

Positive Gay Messages Allowed

Positive gay messages are now OK on personal license plates in Utah. That's the ruling of that state's tax commission, which voted to allow three such plates that were earlier rejected.

For the ACLU it's a victory for free speech. Gay-friendly, personalized license plates are no longer considered offensive in the same way swear words are.

You can tell by looking at Elizabeth "Beano" Solomon's car, she's not afraid to proclaim her support for gay rights and her children, who are gay. That's why she decided to apply for personalized Utah license plates: Gay We Go, Gays are OK, and Gay Rights.

Beano Solomon: "I applied for them to, yes be in your face, but more importantly to convey a positive message."

Sharpton Pledges Fight Against Homophobia Among Blacks

At a recent gathering in the West Village apartment of a gay rights activist, Allen Roskoff, the Reverend Al Sharpton took to the floor and launched an initiative likely to make some of his most loyal supporters uncomfortable.

Sharpton has pledged to jumpstart a grassroots movement that would address the issue of homophobia in the black community. That problem has undoubtedly contributed to the epidemic rates of HIV/AIDS cases among African-Americans, particularly black women.

Sharpton's strongest detractors, to be sure, will be black preachers who remain in denial, even as the deadly disease claims the lives of those who sit in their pews week after week.

The failure by the black religious community to tackle homophobia within its ranks has been a travesty and has further undermined the black clergy's efforts to become leading moral voices when it comes to eliminating "isms." Black clerics must stop ignoring the reality that the black community they claim to represent includes gay men and lesbians, many of whom spend years in hiding because they fear their lifestyle will be considered morally and socially unacceptable.

Central Sighting – The 9th Art of Food Culinary Competition , sponsored by Highmark/Blue Shield, is hosted by The Art Association of Harrisburg September 17, 6-9 p.m. 25 chefs compete with lavish entries for the public to admire while enjoying hors d'ouevres contributed by contestants.

Poll: Americans Say World War III Likely

Americans are far more likely than the Japanese to expect another world war in their lifetime, according to AP-Kyodo polling 60 years after World War II ended. Most people in both countries believe the first use of a nuclear weapon is never justified.

Those findings come six decades after the US dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The war claimed about 400,000 U.S. troops around the world, more than three times that many Japanese troops and at least 300,000 Japanese civilians.

Out of the ashes, Japan and the United States forged a close political alliance. Americans and Japanese now generally have good feelings about each other. But people in the two countries have very different views on everything from the U.S. use of the atomic bomb in 1945, fears of North Korea and the American military presence in Japan.

Investigators: Gay Club was Target of Arson

A nightclub that once boldly displayed a 25-foot gay pride flag over its doorway was nearly destroyed recently in what its owner is calling a "hate crime" and investigators believe is an act of arson.

Investigators said an unknown suspect or suspects broke in through the front door of Heart Rock shortly before 4 a.m. Assistant Fire Chief Randy Russell said the club's interior was vandalized and several cans of gasoline were poured to fuel the fire that gutted the windowless cement building.

"They started fires in four or five little areas … on the floor and on some furniture," Russell said.

Same-sex Marriage on Rise in Belgium

Same-sex marriage has boomed since the concept was legalized in Belgium and 3 percent of all marriages are between homosexuals.

Some 2,500 same-sex couples have tied the knot since September 2003, the Ministry of Interior Affairs announced. It is not certain that marrying will remain this popular among Belgian gays in the future since registered homosexuals are barred from adopting children under national legislation.

The Belgian parliament has been discussing adoption rights for same-sex couples in recent months and a vote is expected after the summer recess.

Belgium was the second country, after the Netherlands, to legalize gay marriage. Same-sex marriages are now allowed in a number of countries, including Spain and Canada, whereas gay adoption remains fairly restricted.

Theatre Roundup

Theatre Round Up: Open Stage Offers 20th Anniversary Season

Open Stage of Harrisburg celebrates it's 20th Anniversary Season by doing what it does best - bring outstanding productions of thought-provoking contemporary theatre to mid-state audiences.

OS's anniversary season is its boldest to date and is filled with daring plays other theatres may hesitate to perform. Every one is a central Pennsylvania premiere.

The season opens with Edward Albee's controversial 2002 Tony Award-winning play, "The Goat or Who Is Sylvia?" running September 16 - October 9.

"Goat" is followed by Marie Jones wry Irish comedy "Stones in His Pocket" running October 28 - November 20. for 2006, "Frozen," Bryony Lavery's chilling drama which has been a hit in both London and New York, runs February 3 - February 26. Regina Taylor's rousing Gospel musical "Crowns" runs April 21 - May 14.

7th Annual WomenSpeak Festival

Finally, the Mainstage Season ends with the 7th Annual WomenSpeak Festival, which runs June 1 - June 24, 2006.

In addition, OS will bring back its two perennial favorites "A Christmas Carol" "The Diary of Anne Frank." This year a spectacular new production of "Carol" moves to The Whitaker Center for three magical evening performances December 21 -23, 2006. "Anne Frank" also returns to Whitaker for one public performance on March 18, 2006.

Tickets: Call The Box at 717-214 ARTS (2787). Plays $22; Crowns $25; Plays Student/Senior $18 (Crowns $21). Tickets for "Carol" and "Anne Frank" also availabe online www.whitakercenter.org.

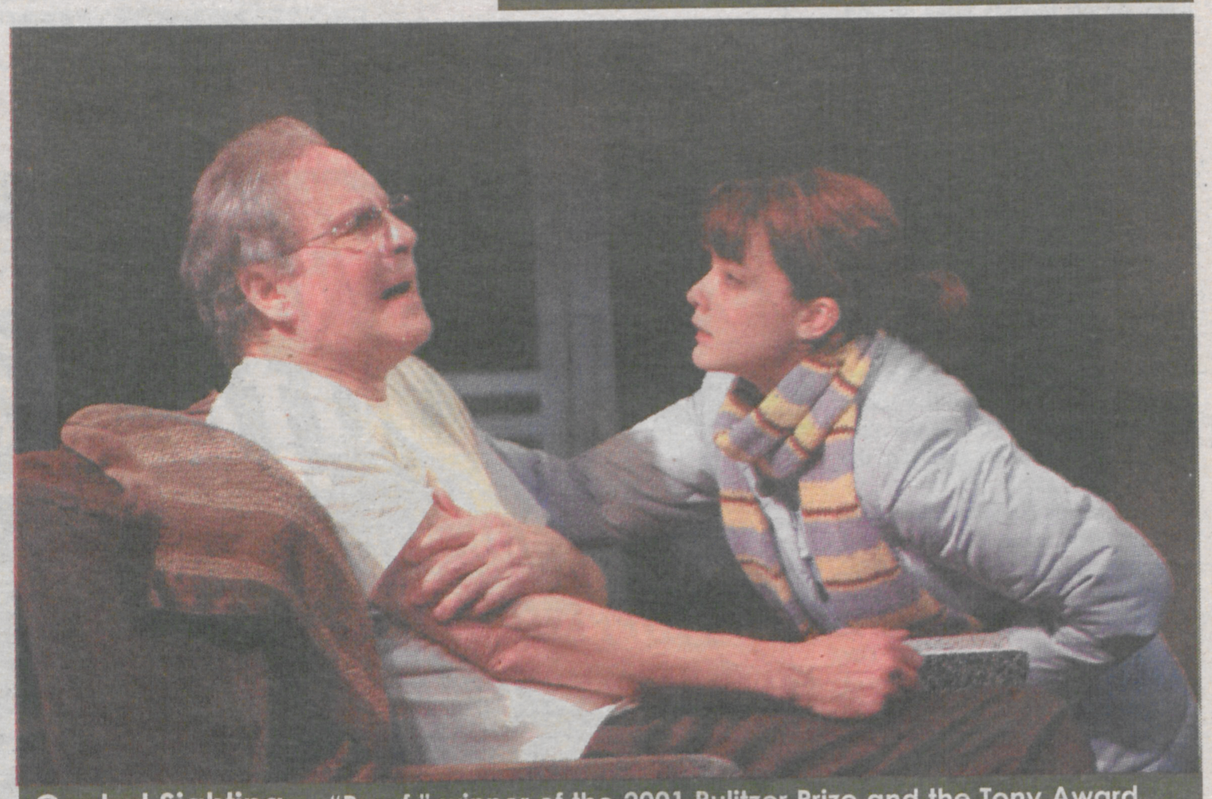
Theatre Round Up: York Little Theatre Stages Reading

York Little Theatre presents a staged reading of "That Day in September" September 11, 8 p.m. The reading benefits York County's emergency personnel. General Admission is $10 with opportunities to donate more to support three emergency service agencies. Reservations encouraged. Information: 717-854-5715.

The reading is a Millersville resident Artie Van Why's first-person account of 9/11, his autobiographical tale of how he came to be at that place, at that time, and lessons he learned. Van Why worked directly across the street from the World Trade Center on 9/11.

The reading will be performed by Mechanicsburg's David Newhouse and directed by Cookie Bonsall, a Mt. Joy resident and former Education Director of Theater of the Seventh Sister. Proceeds benefit three local emergency service agencies: The York County Fire School, the York County Chiefs of Police Association, and the Emergency Medical Services Association.

Harrisburg Men's Chorus comes back strong with recent concerts delighting audiences with professional choral renditions of pop



Central Sighting – "Proof," winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award, recently made its professional area premiere at Totem Pole Playhouse. The production was presented by Caledonia Theatre Company and guest sponsors Smith, Elliott Kearns and Company and BarleySnyder. Information on Caledonia Theatre Company and Totem Pole Playhouse events: 717.352.2164; -888-805-7056; www.totempoleplayhouse.org.

Highmark Blue Shield Underwrites

Lancaster Symphony Opens New Season October 7-9

The Lancaster Symphony Orchestra opens its 2005-2006 "Only in Lancaster" Classic Concert Series October 7, 8 and 9, featuring "Classics of Today and Tomorrow."

The series is performed at Fulton Opera House, 12 North Prince Street, Lancaster. Parking available adjacent to the Fulton and at Prince Street Garage. Friday's opening night performances begin at 8 p.m. Saturday concerts begin 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday night concerts begin 7:30 p.m. Fulton box office - (717) 397-7425.

Underwriting the Lancaster Symphony's 2005-2006 season is Highmark Blue Shield. Classic Series sponsors are Franklin & Marshall College, Millersville University and Travel Time Travel Agency. Season matinee sponsor is Lancaster General. Season automotive sponsor is L. B. Smith Jaguar, and its season media sponsor is WITF-FM radio.

A blend of the familiar and the new, the concerts will feature Pyotr Tchaikovsky's beloved, evocative Symphony No. 5 in E minor, the American premiere of Wladyslaw Szpilman's Little Overture and a Pennsylvania debut of Henryk Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 1.

Guest soloist is acclaimed Ukraine violinist Mark Peskanov.

Little Overture composer Wladyslaw Szpilman is the Polish-Jewish musician portrayed in Adrien Brody's Oscar-winning performance in the 2003 movie, "The Pianist." Spared from death in the Warsaw ghetto by a Nazi officer who appreciated his piano virtuosity, Szpilman wrote a book entitled "Death of a City" immediately after World War II. The Polish communist regime censored positive images of the Nazi occupation, and it took over 50 years for Szpilman's son Andrzej to shed light on his father's story.

The opening concerts will also feature Wieniawski's Violin Concerto No. 1. Wieniawski was a violin virtuoso and composer who lived in Poland from 1835 to 1880. His name is honored to this day in Poland by an international violin composition held there for violinists and violinmakers.

Guest soloist of the premiere of Wieniawski's work will be acclaimed Ukraine violinist Mark Peskanov.

A native of Odessa in the Ukraine, Peskanov has enjoyed a distinguished international career as a violinist. His travels have taken him to major concert halls around the world for performances with many of the finest orchestras.

Peskanov premiered the Violin Concerto of John Williams with Leonard Slatkin and the St. Louis Symphony, later recording the work with Maestro Slatkin and the London Symphony. As a recitalist and ensemble player, he has collaborated with such renowned artists as Isaac Stern, Yo-Yo Ma, Mstislav Rostropovich, Jean-Pierre Rampal and Yefim Bronfman.

Book Review

Information by Forever Books, 41 N. Front St., Steelton, 717-939-5507, central PA's only glbt bookstore.

Best Gay Love Stories 2005

In this first volume of Alyson's new series, "Best Gay Love Stories," editor Nick Street gathers 25 tales — from the sentimental to the fanciful, from the heartbending to the inspiring — by some of the most talented writers on the queer literary scene. A would-be gay basher in Little Italy misses his mark but accidentally knocks some sense into two longtime friends who've spent years ignoring their feelings for each other. Kind words from a stranger on a train help a grieving lover make a new connection. Bad boys from Philadelphia's mean streets look up where angels fear to tread. When his sister Carrie sings a hot date to the prom, Hansel despairs of ever finding a boy of his own — until a very special fairy steps in with a few helpful hints.

Confessions of a Casanova
By Kenny, Chris

Thirtysomething Tony Romero is a certified Casanova with a routine that never fails: flirt and woo; divide and conquer; dump him and move on to the next kill. Tony doesn't mean to fall in and out of love so easily; it's just a habit. Of course, loving so many men has its unfortunate side effects, namely ex-boyfriends. Suddenly, Tony's luck is changing. The Casanova's charms are wearing off, and Tony's mad whirl of a life is slowing down just long enough for the pain to catch up. As the collateral damage mounts, Tony thinks he just may have found The One — if he can keep him from leaving forever.

Between Girlfriends
By Dean, Elizabeth

Meet Gracy Maynard, who's looking for a mature woman of independent means; Lindsay Tompkins, who's too busy to play the field; Parker Lowell, who's the wild woman of jewelry and expensive clothes, and the owner of a wickedly sharp tongue; and Blair Brown, who's the girly-girl Black American princess with serious fairy-tale "issues". They're lovers. They're queer. They're also entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs, fashionistas, lotharios, insightful, and hopefully they'll find a girlfriend who can mix a mean cocktail and kiss like a house on fire. But when the chips are down, the darling's getting ugly, and the smug couples are too obnoxious to bear, a woman's best defense is always the comfort shared between girlfriends.

Back to Salem
By Mawson, Alex

Jessie Mercer has it all — fame, fortune, and a best-selling murder mystery being made into a movie starring the alluring Taylor Andrews. When disturbing, real-life events begin mimicking the movie's plot, Jessie and Taylor find themselves drawn into a frantic web of passion, treachery, and deception that began centuries ago. As the terror mounts, Jessie realizes she is the target and must go back — all the way back to Salem, where answers to the mystery unfold — before the evil from the past destroys her.

Maggart continued

also happens to be the older sister to singer/songwriter Fiona Apple [Maggart].

And while show business is rife with sister (and half-sister) musical competitions (Barbra Streisand and Rosalind Kind, Liza Minneli and Lorna Luft, to name a few), one can forget about any sibling rivalry between Maggart and Apple.

"It's about doing what you do," Maggart says. "[Fiona's] a songwriter. We rarely touch the same songs. I'm an interpreter."

Born and raised near 125th Street in Manhattan, Maggart became bi-coastal after her parent's divorce when she was a child. Spending time in LA with her father, Maggart was introduced to heavy-hitting cabaret performers such as Michael Feinstein and Andrea Marcovicci. In fact it was Marcovicci, a renowned cabaret performer in her own right, who suggested to Maggart that her voice was ideally suited to the genre in general and the songs of the 20's and 30's in particular.

"I think that I just chose to go with what's me," says Maggart who, incidentally, studied opera briefly. "I, for whatever reason, have a deep connection to this music. It just feels natural. It's an energy that just happens."

Maggart's two CD's to-date, "Look for the Silver Lining" and "With Sweet Despair" offer a wide range of musical emotions from love songs (the luscious "Star Dust") to humorous (the wry "Lost Liberty Blues") to sad (Cole Porter's "Love for Sale").

And in an era when so many of her contemporaries appear to be competing for who can expose the most number of body parts per song, Maggart is mature in her outlook of how she sees her career developing.

"I want to continue the way that I've been operating," says

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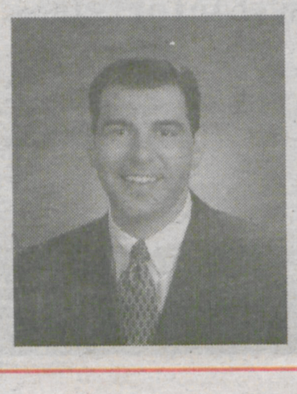

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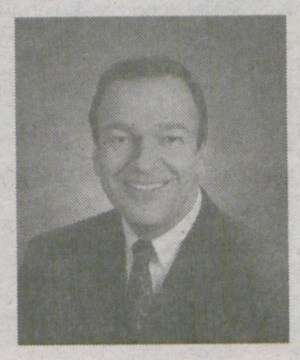

Book Review: Larry Kramer Strikes Again!

by Ian Forster

"The Tragedy of Today's Gays" is based on a speech Larry Kramer made at NYC's Copper Union shortly after George W. Bush's re-election. The book includes a Foreword by Naomi Wolf and an Afterword by Roger McFarlane, who last year spoke in central Pennsylvania at the invitation of AIDS Community Alliance.

In reference to gay people Kramer wrote, "We are so wonderful but we are also so fucked up." He is an angry man. He is angry with every president since the arrival of AIDS, the government institutions that should have done something to help, the gay organizations that have now amounted to nothing, and gays in general for being too ashamed to help themselves.

So why are gays so tragic according to Kramer? Many missed opportunities to create change and advance our civil rights come to mind when I think of our tragedy. Kramer seems to agree. Every hate crime and law written against us is a missed opportunity and with the arrival of AIDS of course being the significant.

Our image, especially as gay men, has not evolved from one of "sickness." Sick from AIDS and poor morals, Kramer contends. The issue of morals is running our country and in that we are seen to have none. So are we fighting to change our image? Kramer says that only a few are doing something but lack any substantial support.

Kramer is quick to point out that the people running this country hate us and have a strong network with a lot of money to prevent any progress for the gay cause. A sense of optimism cannot easily be found in this book. Optimism is not what he sees to be necessary. A blunt awakening must occur first. We must accept our past and worry about our future.

I was not around when AIDS first began to shake the life out of the gay revolution. I was only born in 1987. Can I sense this tragedy that Kramer speaks of? Of course I can. Gay activism is rarely important to my homosexual peers.

Like all minorities we are angry with those who seem to dirty our image. In my opinion, the main challenge lies in educating the masses to view us as individuals that have a sexual preference in common. We do not have a lifestyle in common.

What progress was formed by the AIDS pandemic is now stagnant. We were a group that was standing for our right to be heard. Now we have quieted our voices and left it up to a few activists.

What generation of homosexuals will fight for the rights that are being withheld? What are we waiting for! I fear for the gay teens that will come after me and have to face the world we left for them.

Kramer repeated many times, "I love being gay. I love gay people. I think we're better than other people. I really do. I think we're smarter and more talented and better friends. I do, I do, I totally do. I really do think all of these things." He sees potential.

If you are not sure whether there is a problem with homosexuality today, I recommend this book. Larry Kramer will make sure you know what is wrong and if you do not start to do something about it he will curse at you in the street.

Ian Forster attended the Unitarian Universalist United Nations conference on AIDS in April of 2005 in NYC.

the Carlisle page

Is Carlisle the Next New Hope?

With shops lining quaint streets, observers wonder if Carlisle is the next New Hope? The borough features distinctive gift boutiques, apparel shops, popular specialty shops, fine jewelry, entertainment and superb restaurants. Businesses are supported by the Downtown Carlisle Association (DCA), formed in 1982 and the state's oldest continuous running Main Street organization.

The association preserves

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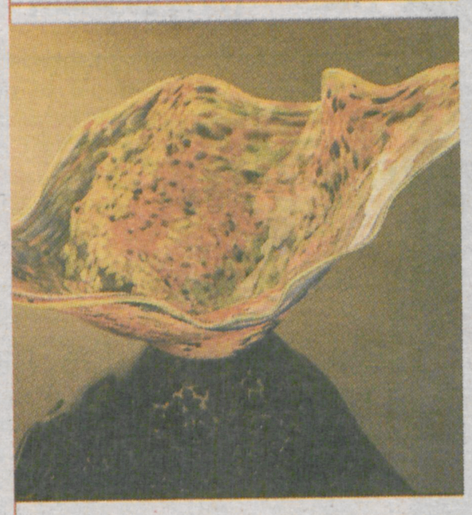
the garden gallery



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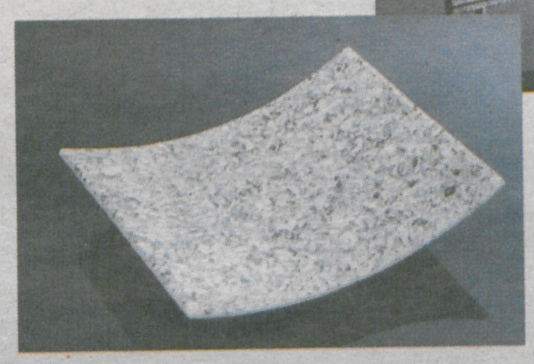

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Movie Review: Angels in America

by Daniel M. Kane

"Angels in America" is an HBO release. This six-chapter, six-hour miniseries involves the interaction of New Yorkers in each others' lives during Reaganism and the explosion of AIDS. Directed by Mike Nichols, "Angels in America" includes some household names such as Al Pacino, Meryl Streep and Emma Thompson. Tony Kushner wrote the screenplay to this Broadway performance.

I highly recommend Chapters 1 through 5 (only). With drama, comedy and surrealism indivisible, "Angels in America" belongs with "The Outer Limits" in imagination. The script and characters are unpredictable and irreverent, or utterly ridiculous in their reverence. Pacino's performance as the irrepressible Roy Cohn shines, as does Streep's spectral character. "Angels in America" covers the gamut of human emotion, from joy to love to lust to pride to hate to ignorance to pity, from the repressed assimilatoids to the most unapologetic of the five-borough Queendom.

Chapter 6, however, was a letdown, not because of the anticipated tragedies that ensured but because of the irritatingly patronizing conclusion.

All in all, "Angels in America" was a thoughtful comment on mid-1980s society and worth watching.

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Social Organizations

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Social/Business Professionals. Meets every other month. PO Box 135 Harrisburg, PA 17108 Phone: 717.612.8445. Email: BAGAL-PA@aol.com.

Common Roads - Youth group. Ages 14-24. Social/Information/Support. Social activities every Friday eve at 7:00 P.M. 1300A North 3rd St, Harrisburg. Email: info@commonroads.org. Website: www.commonroads.org. Voice: 717.920.9534.

Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown -P O Box 541,Bethlehem , PA 18016, non-profit social group for adult men & women, singles & couples. 1 or 2 activities each month including potlucks, bowling, movie nights, hikes, dinners, etc. Email: glorainpa@aol.com.

Harrisburg Gay Men's and Women's Volleyball - Social/Recreation. Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Baughman United Methodist Church, New Cumberland Cost: $2.50, Contact: Jim at 233.3172.

Harrisburg Women's Rugby Club - Looking for players for summer and fall league. No experience necessary. Email: rugbydog34@aol.com.

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Carlisle continued

Carlisle's rich historical heritage by combating deterioration in the downtown district and keeping the area economically viable. Membership boasts 375 business and residential supporters.

Throughout the year, DCA hosts several events: Harvest Festival of the Arts and Octubafest with 240 artists, craftsmen, food vendors, and about 22,000 visitors. The Carlisle Regional Performing Arts Center, Dickinson College, The Dickinson School of Law and the Cumberland County Historical Society, provide educational and cultural activities. A business recruitment package, along with a list of Investment Opportunities is available by calling DCA at 717-245-2648. www.downtowncarlisle.com

Maggart continued

Maggart. "I know it's a cliché, but I take it as it comes and make sure that I'm proud of what of I do."

Marc-Carroll Rigel, FAB's 2005 chair person is feeling some pride for his organization as well.

"We are so proud and fortunate to have Maude Maggart performing at this year's very special 10th anniversary FAB gala event," said Rigel. "I believe those attending this year's event will find her to be completely charming and a terrific entertainer."

Rigel, who saw Maggart perform live on A Prairie Home Companion in New York in April and again a few weeks later at the Algonquin's Oak Room, said he knew she would be a stunning addition to the festivities that honor achievement in the gay and lesbian community of greater Harrisburg and whose proceeds benefit gay and lesbian organizations serving Central Pennsylvania.

"In the past, we've had some exceptional performers and guests from Governor Ed Rendell to Suzanne Westenhoefer to Georgia Ragsdale," Rigel said. "Maude Maggart represents the next evolution in providing superb entertainment for those who so generously come out and show their support for FAB and the Switchboard's many important initiatives in our community."

Information on FAB's 2005 gala event can be obtained by calling the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg at 234-0328 or online at www.askglsh.org. Information on Maggart can be obtained online at www.maudemaggart.com.

Miss Central PA continued

sentative for the gay community," Diamond says. Over the past four years, she's supported local charities as well as Pride.

"My goal during my reign as Miss Gay Pride is to 'Embrace and Educate,'" Diamond says. "Through knowledge we gain power and strength. We help aid in the fight against ignorance." She feels "ignorance" is the world's leading killer and is the root of all evil. "Not only do we as a community need to embrace each other, but outside communities as well. People fear what they don't understand and it is up to us to teach tolerance and love." Diamond strives to "lead by example, not only in my drag career but in my everyday life as well."

She is a perfect example of what Governor Ed Rendell meant when he referred to our community as "a kind and decent people" while answering a demonstrating Fundamentalist Christian on why he came to show his support.

6th Annual Pagan Pride Day September 10

The 6th Annual South Central Pennsylvania Pagan Pride Day is September 10 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Maplewing Clan of Quarryville, PA and is once again held at the Lancaster County Central Park in Pavilions 2 & 3.

The annual celebration features workshops and speakers on the many aspects of the Pagan religions including, but not limited to Wicca, Druidism, and Asatru. The event also features an open Pagan ritual, musical entertainment, vendor shopping, children's activities and informational booths from other community organizations.

Pagan religions encompass a variety of earth-based, polytheistic and peaceful beliefs.

The objective of Pagan Pride Day is to foster pride in Pagan identity through education, activism, charity and community while educating and working to eliminate prejudice and discrimination based on religious belief. Pagan Pride Days are held all around the country and the world during the month of September.

The first Pagan Pride Day celebrations began in 1998 with eighteen events. In 2005 over 120 events are planned that attract an attendance of 100-2300 people. The first South Central Pennsylvania Pagan Pride Day was held 2000 and attracted about 50 people. Last years event attracted almost 300.

Contact: Tracy Telesha (bandelle1@yahoo.com); 717.608.7572 or Albert Hanna, 717.786.7507.

Wal-Mart Sponsors Diversity Program

Wal-Mart has launched an Associate Resource Groups Program featuring "affinity or network groups," a move that has reportedly caused concern among some employees.

In a notice to its stores and offices, Bentonville-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said seven associate resource groups had been approved, including one for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees.

For more information: www.nwaonline.net/articles/2005/05/04/business/01wmassociategroups.txt

Want to Act-Up continued

veterans of legendary activist groups like ACT-UP, which played a major role in securing people with AIDS their first wave of treatment and legislation. "The campaign aims to train a feisty new generation of fighters," Thomas says

From October 8-12, C2EA is bringing the fight to the nation's capital where caravans from around the nation will converge for five lively days of meetings, prayer groups and lawmaker visits.

"It all culminates with a massive march that will show the world we're united, strong and ready to make a mighty ruckus until our leaders do the right thing to halt the epidemic," Thomas concludes.

Parisburg continued

the artists, will be on display at 1419 N. Third Street, Harrisburg. Freshening up an empty storefront with original art fell right in line with Woland's mission. He would like to see Paint Midtown be a catalyst for other arts events in the area. "I hope it spurs people to think of the possibilities that we have here in Midtown," he said. "They're limitless."

Gay Gene continued

female relatives.

An early interest in sex before the age of 10 was also a predictor of homosexuality, according to the researchers.

"We can no longer say that is it impossible to have a gene that influences homosexuality because we found out that genes might have different effects depending on gender," Camperio-Ciani, adding that cultural and individual experience also play a part.

James M. Mead continued

graduate currently does consulting in the health insurance field. Mead also serves on several for-profit and not-for-profit boards, including the Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

Mead, who joined the Symphony Board in 2003, expressed his feelings about assuming his new post: "Having recently retired from Capital Blue Cross I felt I had the time to really dig into the business of helping to move the symphony forward."

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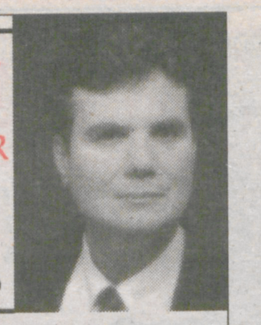

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MOVIE REVIEW

Movie Reviews by Kevyn Knox www.thecinematheque.com

My Summer of Love (2004, Pawel Pawelowski, UK)

There may be nothing on earth more powerful than the love between two teenage girls. Sure, it may be a love that goes beyond the realm of reality - as teenage minds are apt to do more often than not - but that doesn't stop the intensity that ensues. "My Summer of Love" shows just that unbridled, unrealistic lust that I speak of. For better or for worse, these girls are in it for long haul - or at least for the rest of the Summer. (To be released on DVD, October 4, 2005)

Dog Day Afternoon (1975, Sydney Lumet, USA)

Speaking of intensity - Pacino takes it to a whole new level in this bank robbery gone wrong, socially conscience, seventies American New Wave masterpiece. In order to get his lover (Chris Sarandon in the role of his career) the "change" he desires, Al Pacino decides to rob a bank - things can only go wrong - very wrong.

Far from Heaven (2002, Todd Haynes, USA)

Once there was a man named Douglas Sirk, who made movies in the fifties. In Hollywood. The Hollywood with the straight face and the queer behind. He made films as proactively subversive as they were sublime. His masterpiece was called "All That Heaven Allows" - which somehow (although seemingly tame by today's standards) managed to sneak its way past the censors. In the first year post 9/11, Todd Haynes - the new Queen of The Queer Cinema - created this bitingly (yet loving) homage to Mr. Sirk.

Note to my readers: In the next issue and on my web site, I will release My Greatest Films List (www.thecinematheque.com) At the same time, I'm compiling a subsection called "Queer Cinema: The Greatest GLBT Films Ever Made". More information in the next issue.

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Gay Novel Wins Prestigious Booker Award

British author Alan Hollinghurst recently won the Booker Prize, one of the world's most prestigious literary awards, for his critically acclaimed gay novel "The Line of Beauty." Organizers confirmed it is the first time in the awardâ ™s 36-year history that a gay novel won the prize.

The novel is about young Nick Guest, an Oxford University graduate living in the London house of a high-flying Conservative parliamentarian at the height of Margaret Thatcher's power. In the boom years of the 1980s, Guest has a passionate affair with a black council worker before falling in love with a cocaine-addicted millionaire. In the book's most memorable scene, the hero dances with Thatcher at a party while he is drugged up the eyeballs.

The Booker rewards the best novel of the last 12 months by a British, Irish or writer from the Commonwealth of former British colonies. Won over the years by such renowned authors as Salmon Rushdie and Nobel literature prizewinner J.M. Coetzee, it can lead to lucrative film and television contracts as well as instant literary stardom.

Social Organizations continued

Lambda Car Club - Social/Recreation. Meets monthly. Email: Buickbum@aol.com Voice: Contact John Ball at 717.238.9766.

Pennsmen. Leather/Levi/Social. Membership is open to anyone over the age of 21 with an interest in the lifestyle. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month at the 704 Strawberry. Contact: Steve at 717.232.3785. Website: www.pennsmen.org, Email: jesjames71@comcast.net.

Pride Festival of Central PA - Planning meetings. Meets second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., Volunteers welcome. Email: info@harrisburgpride.org. Website: www.harrisburgpride.org. Voice: 717.234.0328.

The Rainbow Bowling League - ABC Bowling Lanes - Eisenhower Blvd, Harrisburg. The Rainbow Bowling League bowls every Thursday at 8:55 p.m. The Rainbow Bowling League is considered a "mixed" league: in other words, both men and women are welcome. We invite anyone inter-

continued on page 30

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Transgender Etiquette continued

levels, body chemistry and the pheromones you exude change significantly. You no longer give off male energy. It's a different energy. People's reactions to this invisible force are different. Men (straight) tend to retreat initially over this strange energy. Some women identify the signal immediately. Others, later. One woman "read" me instantly, not related to my physical appearance and wondered.

Another tendency is higher acceptance levels within our younger generation, who are exposed to more diversity than ours. The majority simply do not care unless you are a 300 pound gorilla. While shopping, the young ladies working at various women's stores are always considerate, sensitive and accommodating, making your excursion so delightful. But more so, typically using the gender etiquette you so desire.

In essence, while your network adapts to your changes, patience is critical. Overall, most women are quicker to embrace your desired name/preferred gender. Some (men and women) quicker than others. Others may never. The women in my special circle recognized those clues, allowing time to process and digest the changes. The evidence and telltale signs were there for making the connection, it was just a matter of confirmation.

Letters to the editor continued

I will close this Open Letter to the community with an invitation to join the Committee so as a group we can make all things possible. I also want to thank my fellow Committee members for letting me be apart of this. It has been so great to work with all of you.

Sincerely,
Dave Walker

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Friday, Oct. 29th - Halloween Costume Dance Party 10pm. Dress up to win cash.

Social Organizations continued

ested in joining. Openings for individual bowlers, teams and substitutes. Contact: Mark or Robert 763-8444 for more details.

Renaissance LSV - Transgendered. Social/Information/Support. Meets the 1st Saturday of each month. Email: Outreach Director Pam Hirschhorn -PamH00@yahoo.com Website: www.tg-support-centralpa.org Renaissance LSV -c/o Pam Hirschhorn PO Box 58 Mt. Aetna, PA 19544

Susquehanna Valley Bears - PO BOX 61478, Harrisburg, PA 17106-1478. Website:: www.svbears.com, Email: svbears@svbears.com

Susquehanna Club - Recreation/Camping. Membership organization. Website: www.susq.org, Email: camp@susq.org.

Womyn's Chorus of Central PA - Social - Regular rehearsals every Monday night at 7 PM. We need YOUR voice and spirit. Email info@cpwchorus.org. Website: www.cpwchorus.org or call 717.234.4825.

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The Shore continued

record that we wanted to make with no interference. They didn't tell us what to do, which is something most people would think a major label would do to you. It's been a long struggle for them to realize 'cuz we don't sound like any other artist on Maverick. They're kind of a pop label and were more of an introspective psychedelic band."

The Shore: www.theshoremusic.com or drop them a line on MySpace at www.myspace.com/theshore.

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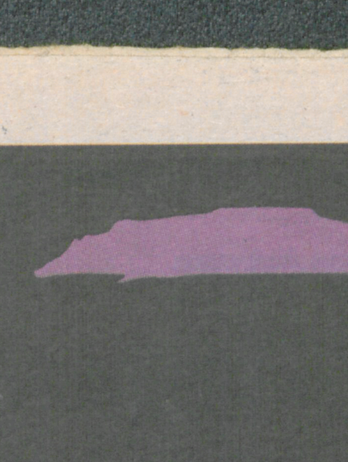

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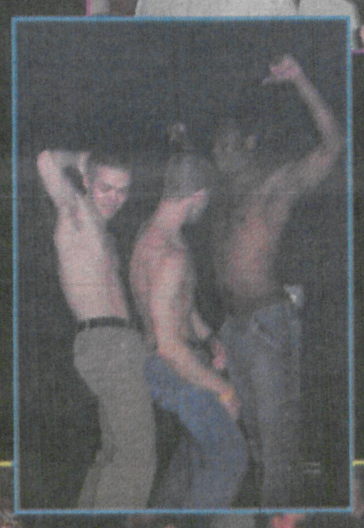

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